

B R I T A N N I A:

O R, A

Chorographical DESCRIPTION

O F

G R E A T-B R I T A I N

A N D

I R E L A N D,

Together with the Adjacent ISLANDS.

Written in LATIN

By *W I L L I A M C A M B D E N*, Clarencieux King
at A R M S,

Now Faithfully Translated into ENGLISH.

V O L. IV.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year M.DCC.XXXV.



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R A D N O R S H I R E.



N the north-west of Herefordshire, lies Radnorshire, in British *Sir Vaesyfed*; of a triangular form, and gradually more narrow as it is extended further westward. On the south, the river Wye divides it from Brecknock, and on the north-part lies Montgomeryshire. The eastern and southern parts are well cultivated; but elsewhere it is so uneven with mountains, that it is hardly capable of

tillage; tho' well-stor'd with woods, and water'd with rivulets, and in some places with standing lakes.

Towards the east, it hath to adorn it (besides other castles of the lords Marchers, now almost all bury'd in their own ruins) Castell pain which was built by Pain a Norman, from whom it had the name; and Castell Colwen, which if (I mistake not) was formerly call'd Maud-Castle in Colwent. For there was a castle of that name, much noted, whereof Robert de Todney, a very eminent person, was governor in the time of Edward II. It is thought to have belong'd before, to the Breoses lords of Brecknock, and to have received that name from Maud of St. Valeric, a malpert woman, wife of William Breos, who rebell'd against king John. This castle being demolish'd by the Welsh, was rebuilt of stone by king Henry III. in the year 1231. But of greatest note is Radnor, the chief town of the county; call'd in British *Maesywed*, fair-built, but with thatch'd houses, as is the manner of that country. Formerly it was well-fenc'd with walls and a castle, but being by that rebellious Owen Glyn Dowrdwy laid in ashes, it decay'd daily; as well as old Radnor (call'd by the Britains *Maes ywed ben*, and

and from its high situation *Pencraig* (which had been burnt by Rhys ap Gruffydh, in the reign of king John. If I should say that this *Maes yved* is the city Magos which Antoninus seems to call Magnos, where (as we read in the *Notitia Provinciarum*) the commander of the Pacensian regiment lay in garrison, under the lieutenant of Britain, in the reign of Theodosius the younger; in my own judgment (and perhaps others may be of the same mind) I should not be much mistaken. For we find that the writers of the middle age call the inhabitants of this country *Magetæ*, and also mention *Comites Masegetenses* and *Magetenses*: And the distances from Gobannium or Aber-Gavenni, as also from Brangorium or Worcester, differ very little from Antoninus's computation. Scarce three miles to the east of Radnor, lies Prestean, in British *Lban Andras*, or St. Andrews; which from a small village, in the memory of our grandfathers, did, by the favour and encouragement of Martin lord bishop of St. David's, become so eminent and beautiful a market-town, as in some measure to eclipse Radnor. Scarce four miles hence, lies Knighton (which may vye with Prestean) call'd by the Britains, as I am inform'd, *Trebuclo* from *Trevyklawdb*, from the dike lying under it; which was cast-up with great labour and industry by Offa the Mercian, as a boundary between his subjects and the Britains, from the mouth of Dee, to that of the river Wye, for the space of about ninety miles: Whence the Britains have call'd it *Llawdb Offa* or Offa's dyke. Concerning which, *Joannes Sarisburiensis*, in his Polycration saith, that Harald establish'd a law, that whatever Welshman should be found arm'd on this side the limit he had set them, to wit, Offa's dike, his right-hand should be cut off by the king's officers. The tracing of this dike gives us the exact bounds of the Britains and Saxons. It may be seen on Brachy-hill, and near *Rhyd ar Helig*, and Lanterden in Herefordshire: And is continu'd northwards from Knighton, over a part of Shropshire into Montgomeryshire; and may be trac'd over the Long Mountain call'd in Welsh *Levn Digolb*, to Harden-castle, cross the Severn and *Lban Driunio* common; from whence it passes the Vyrnwy again into Shropshire, not far from Oswaldsty, where there is also a small village call'd *Trevyrclawdb*. In Denbighshire, it is visible along the road between *Rhywabon* and Wrexham; from whence being continu'd through Flintshire, it ends a little below Holywell, where that water falls into Dee, at a place formerly the site of the castle of Basingwerk. This limit seems not afterwards to have been well maintain'd by the English; For although we find that the British tongue decreases

decreases daily on the borders of Wales; yet not only that language, but also the ancient British customs and names of men and places remain still for some space on the English side, almost the whole length of it.

All the land beyond this, toward the west and north, call'd by the natives *melienydd*, from the yellowish mountains, is for the most part a barren and hungry soil. Which, notwithstanding, shews the ruins of several castles, but especially of *Kevn Llys*, and of *Tinbod* standing on the summit of a cop'd hill, which was destroy'd by Llewellyn prince of Wales in the year 1260. This county of *Melienydd* reaches to the river Wye, which word, though it be here the name of a river, seems to have been anciently an appellative either for river, or water. For although it be not used at present in that sense, nor yet preserv'd in any glossary, or other books; yet I find it in the termination of the names of many of our rivers: *ex. gr. Llugwy, Dordwy, y Vyrnwy, Edwy, Conwy, Elwy, Hondkwy, Myrwy, Mowdkwy, Tawy, Towy, &c.* Now, that this final syllable [*wy*] in these names of rivers, is the same with *gwy*, seems more than probable; in that we find the river *Towy* call'd in the book of Landaffe *Tiugui* (*ab hostio taritur super ripam Gui, usque ad ripam Tiugui, &c.*) and also the river *Elwy*, call'd *Elgui*. And that *gwy* or *wy* signified waters, seems further to be confirm'd from the names of some aquatick animals, as *Gwyach, Giach, eog* alias *oio*, &c. This being granted, we may be able to interpret the names of several rivers which have hitherto remain'd untelligible: as *Llugwy*, clear water, from *lhug*, which signifies light or brightness: *Dordkwy*, loud water, from *dwrdd*, noise: *Edwy*, a swift or rapid stream, from *ched*, to fly, &c.

The Wye crosses the west angle of the county; and having its rapid course somewhat abated by the rocks it meets with, and its channel discontinu'd, it suddenly falls headlong over a steep precipice. Whence the place is call'd *Rhaiadr Gwy*, that is, the cataract or fall of the river Wye. And I know not whether the English might not from that word *Rhaiadr* impose the name of Radnor, first on the county, and afterwards on the chief town therein. Several places in Wales are thus denominated; all which have cataracts near them: And the word is still us'd appellatively among the mountains of Snowdon in Caernarvonshire, where such falls of water are very frequent. *Rhaiadar*-castle (whereof not the least ruins are now remaining) was very advantageously situated in a nook of the river, close by this cataract. But what seems very remarkable, is a deep trench on one side of the castle.

stle-yard, cut out of an exceeding hard and solid rock. About two furlongs below this place where the castle stood, I observ'd a large tumulus or barrow, call'd from a chappel adjoyning, *Tommen Ihan St. Fred*: And on the other side, at a farther distance, there are two more, much less than the former, call'd *Krigen Kevn Keido*, viz. the barrows of *Kevn Keido*, a place so call'd; where, it is suppos'd, there stood heretofore a church, in regard a piece of ground adjoyning is call'd *Klyttieu'r Eglwys*.

On the top of a hill, call'd *Gwastedin* near *Rhaiadr Gwy*, there are three large heaps of stones, of that kind which are common upon mountains in most (if not all) the counties of Wales; call'd in South-Wales *Karnen*, and in North-Wales *Karned-beu*. They consist of such lesser stones from a pound weight to a hundred, &c. as the neighbouring places afford; and are confusedly pil'd up without any farther trouble than the bringing them thither, and the throwing them in heaps. On *Plin Lhimmon*, or, as otherwise call'd, *Pym lymmon* mountain, and some other places, there are of these *Karned-beu* so considerably big, that they may be suppos'd to consist of no less than a hundred cart-loads of stones; but generally speaking, they are much less. They are also found in the north, and probably in other parts of England; and are frequent in Scotland and Ireland, being call'd there by the same British name of *Kairn*: Whereof I can give no other account to the curious reader, than that is a primitive word, and appropriated to signify such heaps of stones. That most of these *Karned-beu* (not to say all) were intended as memorials of the dead, I am induced to believe, for that I have my self observ'd near the summit of one of them, a rude stone monument (which I shall have occasion to prove sepulchral hereafter) somewhat of the former of a large coffer or chest; and have received unquestionable information of two more such monuments, found of late years in the like places. But what removes all scruple, and puts this question beyond farther debate, is that it is still the custom in several places, to cast heaps of stones on the graves of malefactors and self-murderers. And hence perhaps it is, since we can assign no other reason, that the worst of traytors are call'd *Karn-Jradwyr*, the most notorious thieves, *Karn-Lhadron*, &c. That this was also the custom amongst the Romans, appears from that epitaph ascrib'd to Virgil, on the infamous robber Balista.

Monte

*Monte sub hoc lapidum tegitur Balista sepultus,
Nocte, die, tutum carpe, viator, iter.*

Under this stone Balista lies inter'd,
Now (night or day) no danger need be fear'd.

But that this was nevertheless usual among the Britains, before they were known to the Romans, seems evident, for that they are common also in the Highlands of Scotland, and in Ireland, where the Roman conquests never reach'd.

Now, if it demanded whether malefactors only were thus serv'd in ancient times; or whether other persons indifferently had not such heaps of stones erected to them, as sepulchral monuments: I answer, that before Christianity, men of the best quality seem to have had such funeral piles, conformable to a custom among the Trojans, as we find by Homer's description of Hector's funeral, at the end of the Iliads: And such I take to have been the largest of them, those especially that have the monuments above-mention'd within them. But since the planting of Christianity, they became so detestable and appropriated to malefactors, that sometimes the most passionate wishes a man can express to his enemy is, that a cairn be his monument: And (as we have already observ'd) the most notorious and profligate criminals are distinguish'd by that word.

By the foresaid cataract, there was a castle, which, as we find it recorded, was repair'd by Rhys Prince of South-Wales, in the reign of king Richard I. Near this place, is a vast wilderness, render'd very dismal by many crooked ways and high mountains: Into which, as a proper place of refuge, that bane of his native country, king Vortigern (whose very memory the Britains curse) withdrew himself, when he had at last repented of his abominable wickedness, in calling-in the English-Saxons, and incestuously marrying his own daughter. But God's vengeance pursuing him, he was consum'd by lightning, together with his city *Kaer-Gwortigern*, which he had built for his refuge. Nor was it far from hence (as if the place were fatal) that not only this Vortigern the last British monarch of the race of the Britains; but also Llewelyn the last prince of Wales of the British line, being betray'd and intercepted in the year of our Lord 1282, ended his life. From this Vortigern, Ninnias calls that small region *Gworge r mawr*, nor is the name yet lost; but of the city there is not

not any memorial remaining, but what we have from authors. Some are of opinion, that the castle of *Gwrthrenion* arose out of the ruins of it; which the Welsh, out of hatred to Roger Mortimer, laid even with the ground *An. 1201*. This part of the country hath been also call'd *Gwarth Ennion*, as we are inform'd by Ninnius; who writes that the foremention'd Vortigern, when he was publickly and sharply reprov'd by St. German, did not only persist in his obstinacy, and his wicked practices, but also cast false and malicious reproaches on that godly Saint. Wherefore (saith Ninnius) Vortimer the son of Vortigern, to make amends for his father's fault, ordain'd that the land where the bishop had receiv'd so great an indignity, should be his own for ever. Upon which, and in memory of St. German, it has been call'd *Gwarth Enian*, which in English signifies a slander justly requited.

The Mortimers descended from the niece of Gonora, wife of Richard the first duke of Normandy, were the first of the Normans, who, having overcome Edric Sylvaticus a Saxon, gain'd a considerable part of this small territory. And having continu'd for a long time the principal men of the county, at length Roger Mortimer lord of Wigmore was created earl of March by Edward III. about the year 1328, who soon after was sentenced to death, having been accus'd, of insolence to the government, of favouring the Scots to the prejudice of England, of conversing over-familiarly with the king's mother, and of contriving the death of his father king Edward II. He had by his wife Jane Jenevil (who brought him large revenues as well in Ireland as in England) a son call'd Egmund, who suffer'd for his father's crimes, and was depriv'd both of his inheritance and the title of earl. But his son Roger was receiv'd into favour, and had not only the title of earl of March restor'd, but was also created knight of the Garter, at the first institution of that noble order. This Roger marry'd Philippa Mountague, by whom he had Edmund earl of March, who marry'd Philippa the only daughter of Leonel duke of Clarence, the third son of king Edward III. whereby he obtain'd the earldom of Ulster in Ireland, and the lordship of Clare. After his decease in Ireland, where he had govern'd with great applause, Roger succeeded, being both earl of March and Ulster; whom Richard II. design'd his successor to the crown, as being in right of the next heir: But he, dying before king Richard, left issue Edward and Anne. King Henry IV. (who had usurp'd the government) being Edmund's interest, and title to the crown, expos'd him

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him to many hazards; insomuch that being taken by the rebel Owen Glyn-Dwr, he dy'd of griet and discontent, leaving his siller Anne to inherit. She was marry'd to Richard Plantagenet earl of Cambridge, whose posterity in her right became afterwards earls of March, and laid claim to the crown; which in the end (as we shall shew elsewhere) they obtain'd; and Edward IV's. eldest son, who was prince of Wales, duke of Cornwall, &c. had also confer'd on him by his father, as an additional honour, the title of earl of March. From which time, this title lay dead, till it was reviv'd by king James I. and bestow'd upon Esme Steward, lord Aubigny, and afterwards duke of Lennox; who was succeeded by James his son, and Esme his grandson. Which Esme dying young, the honour descended to Charles, fourth son of Esme the first duke of Lennox; who also dying without issue, in the year 1672, this honourable title, among others, was confer'd by king Charles II. in the year 1675, upon Charles Lenos, created at the same time duke of Richmond. As for the title of Radnor, it was erected into an earldom by king Charles II. in the person of John Roberts lord Roberts of Truro: Whose son Robert, stil'd lord viscount Bodmin, dying in the life-time of his father, the honour descended to Charles his grandson, the present earl.

In this county are 52 parishes.

B BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

B R E C K N O C K S H I R E .



IN the south of Radnor lies Brecknockshire, in British *Brycheinog*, so call'd, as the Welsh suppose, from prince Brechanus, who is said to have had a numerous and holy offspring, to wit, twenty-four daughters, all saints. This county is considerably larger than Radnorshire, but more mountainous; though it has also fruitful vales. It is bounded on the east with Herefordshire, on the south with Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, and on the west with Caermarthenshire. But since nothing can be added in the description of this small province, to what the industrious Giraldus Cambriensis hath already written (who was arch-deacon hereof, five hundred years since,) I may do well for some time to be silent, and to call him to my assistance.

Brechiniauc, (saith he, in his itinerary of Wales,) is a land sufficiently abounding with corn, whereof if there be any defect, it is amply supply'd from the borders of England; and it is well stored with pastures, woods, wild deer, and herds of cattle. It hath also plenty of river-fish, on one side from Usk, and on the other from Wy; both abounding with salmon and trout, but the Wy with a better sort call'd *dumbræ*. It is inclosed on all parts, except the north, with high mountains: Having on the west, the mountains of Cantre-bychan; and towards the south, the southern-hills, whereof the chief is call'd Kader Arthur, or Arthur's-Chair, from two peaks on the top of it, somewhat resembling a chair. Which, in regard it is a lofty seat, and a place of strength, is ascribed in the vulgar appellation of it, to Arthur the most puissant and absolute monarch of the Britains. A fountain springs
on

on the very top of this hill; which as deep as a draw-well, and four square; affording trouts, tho' no water runs out of it. Being thus guarded on the south with high mountains, it is defended from the heat of the sun with cool breezes; which, with an innate wholesomeness of the air, renders the country exceeding temperate. On the east, it hath the mountains of Talgarth and Ewias.

On the north (as he saith) it is a more open and champaign country; where it is divided from Radnorshire by the river Wy: Upon which there are two towns of noted antiquity, Bualht and hay. Bualht is a town pleasantly seated, with woods about it, and fortified with a castle; but of a later building, viz. by the Breoses and Mortimers, when Rhys ap Gryffydd had demolished the old one. At present it is noted for a good market: But formerly it seems to have been a place very eminent; for Ptolemy sets down the longitude and latitude of it, and calls it *Bullaum Silurum*. Of this town, in the year 1690. a considerable part (being that side of the street next the river Wye,) was by a casual fire totally consumed. Whether this Bualht be the ancient Bullaum, or whether that city or fort (allowing it to have been in this county) was not a place call'd *Kaereu*, some miles distant from it, may be question'd. At least, it is evident, that there hath been a Roman fort at *Kaereu*: For, besides, that name implies as much (signifying strictly the walls or rampire,) and that it was prefix'd by the Britains to the names of almost all the Roman towns, and castles; they frequently dig-up bricks there, and find other manifest signs of a Roman work. It is now only the name of a Gentleman's house; and not far from it, there is also another house call'd Castleham. If it be urg'd in favour of Buelht, that it seems still to retain its ancient name, which Ptolemy might render *Boullaion*: It may be answer'd, that Buelht, which I interpret Colles boum, (Ox-cliff or else Oxen-Holt,) was the name of a small country here, from whence in all likelihood the ancient Bullaum (if it stood in this tract) was denominated: But that being totally destroy'd, and this town becoming afterwards the most noted place of the country, it might also receive its name from it, as the former had done. But (that I may dissemble nothing) since the congruity of the names is the main argument for assigning this situation to the ancient Bullaum Silurum; we shall have occasion of hesitating, if hereafter we find the ruins of a Roman fort or city in a neighbouring country of the Silures, the name whereof may agree with Bullaum no less than Buelht. From this town, the neighbouring part (a mountainous

and rocky country) is also call'd Bualht, into which, upon the incursion of the Saxons, king Vortigern retir'd. And there also, by the permission of Aurelius Ambrosius, his son Pascentius govern'd; as we are inform'd by Ninnius, who in his chapter of Wonders, relates I know not what prodigious story of a heap of stones here, wherein might be seen the footsteps of king Arthur's hound. Hay, in British Tregelhi (which in English we may render Haseley or Hasleton) lies on the bank of the river Wye, upon the borders of Herefordshire: A place which seems to have been well known to the Romans, since we often find their coyns there, and some ruins of walls are still remaining. But now being almost totally decay'd, it complains of the outrages of that profligate rebel Owen Glyn-Dowrdwy, who in his march thro these countries, consum'd it with fire.

Of this Owen Glyn-Dwr or Glyn-Dowrdwy, is found the following account, in some notes of the learned and judicious antiquary Robert Vaughn of Hengwrt, Esq; Sir David Gam was wholly devoted to the interest of the duke of Lancaster; upon which account it was, that Owen ap Gryffydh Vychan (commonly call'd Owen Glyn-Dwr) was his mortal enemy. This Owen had his education at one of the Inns of Court, and was prefer'd to the service of king Richard II. whose scutifer (as Walsingham saith) he was. Owen being assured that his king and master Richard was deposed and murder'd, and being withal provoked by several affronts and wrongs done him by the Lord Grey of Ruthin his neighbour, whom king Henry very much countenanced against him; took arms, and looking upon Henry as an usurper, caus'd him elf to be proclaim'd prince of Wales. And tho' himself were descended paternally but from a younger brother of the house of Powis, yet (as ambition is ingenious) he finds out a way to lay claim to the principality, as descended by a daughter from Lhewelyn ap Gryffydh, the last prince of the British race. He invaded the lands, and burnt and destroyed the houses and estates of all those that favour'd and adher'd to king Henry. He call'd a parliament to meet at Machyndlheth in Montgomeryshire: Whither the nobility and gentry of Wales came, in obedience to his summons; and among them the said David Gam, but with an intention to murder Owen. The plot being discover'd, and he taken before he could put it in execution, he was like to have suffer'd as a traitor: But intercession was made for him by Owen's best friends, and the greatest upholders of his cause; whom he could not either honourably or safely deny. Yet notwithstanding this pardon, as soon as he return'd to his own country,

country, where he was a man of considerable interest, he exceedingly annoy'd Owen's friends. Not long after, Owen enter'd the marches of Wales, destroying all with fire and sword; and having then burnt the house of Sir David Gam, it is reported that he spake thus to one of his tenants:

*O gweli di wr coch cam,
Yn ymosyn y Gyrnigwen;
Dyrwed y bod hi tan y lan,
A nod y glo ar ei phen.*

But to return.

As to the river Wye watereth the northern part of this county, so the Usk, a noble river, takes its course through the midst of it. The British name of this river is *Wysk*, which word seems a derivative from *Gwy* or *wy*, whereof the reader may see some account in Radnorshire. At present it is not significative in the British; but is still preserv'd in the Irish tongue, and is their common word for water. There were formerly in Britains many rivers of this name, which may be now distinguish'd in England by these shadows of it, *Ex*, *Ox*, *Ux*, *Ouse*, *Esk*, &c. But because such as are unacquainted with etymological observations, may take this for a groundless conjecture; that it is not such will appear, in regard that in Antonine's Itinerary we find Exeter call'd *Isca Danmoniorum* from its situation on the river *Ex*, and also a city upon this river *Usk*, for the same reason, call'd *Isca* leg. II.

The *Usk* falling headlong from the Black-Mountain, and forcing a deep channel, passes by Brecknock, the chief town of the county, and placed almost in the center of it. This town the Britains call *Aber-hondhy*, from the confluence of the two rivers, *Hondhy* and *Usk*. That it was inhabited in the time of the Romans, is evident from several coins of their emperors, sometimes found there; and from a Roman brick lately discover'd with this inscription, *LEG. II. UG.* as also from a square camp near this place, commonly called *Gaer*, that is, the fortification; where Roman bricks are frequently turn'd up by the plough, with the same inscription. Bernard Newmarch, who conquer'd this small county, built here a stately castle, which the Breoses and Bohuns afterwards repair'd; and in our father's memory, king Henry VIII. found a collegiate church of fourteen prebendaries

bendaries (in the priory of the Dominicians) which he translated thither from Abergwily in Caermarthenshire.

Two miles to the east of Brecknock, is a large lake, which the Britains call *Llyn Savedban*, and *Llyn Savadban*, i. e. a standing lake. Giraldus calls it *Clamofum*, from the terrible noise it makes, like a clap of thunder, upon the breaking of the ice. In English it is called Brecknockmere: It is two miles long, and near the same breadth well stored with otters, and also with perch, tench, and eel, which the fishermen take in their coracles. Lheweni, a small river, having enter'd this lake, still retains its own colour, and, as it were distaining a mixture, is thought to carry out no more, nor other water than what it brought in. It has been an ancient tradition in this neighbourhood, that where the lake is now, there was formerly a city, which being swallowed up by an earthquake, resigned its place to the waters. And to confirm this, they alledge (besides other arguments) that all the high-ways of this county tend to this lake. If this be true, what other city may we suppose on the river Lheweny but Loventium, placed by Ptolemy in this tract; which I have diligently search'd for, but there appear no where any remains, either of the name, or the ruins, or the situation of it. Marianus (which had almost forgotten) seems to call this place Bricaneumere; who tells us that Ethelfleda, the Mercian lady, enter'd the lands of the Britains *Anno 913*, in order to reduce a castle at Bricenaumere; and that she there took the queen of the Britains prisoner. Whether that castle was Brecknock itself, or Castell Dinas on a steep tapering rock above this lake, remains uncertain; but it is manifest from the publick records, that the neighbouring castle of Blaen Lheveny was the chief place of that barony which was the possession of Peter Fitz-Herbert, the son of Herbert lord of Dean-forest, by Lucy the daughter of Miles earl of Hereford.

In the reign of William Rufus, Bernard Newmarch the Norman, man of undaunted courage, and great policy, having levied a considerable army both of English and Normans, was the first that attempted the reducing of this country. Having discomfited and slain in the field Bledhyn ap Maenyrch, and seised on the lordship of Brecon, and forced his son and heir Gwgan to be content with that share of it which he was pleased, by way of composition, to appoint him, he gave him the lordship and manors of Lhanvihangel Tal y Llyn, part of Lhan Lhyeni and Kantrev Seliv, with lodgings in the castle of Brecknock; where, in regard he was the rightful lord of the country

there was such a strict eye kept over him, that he was not permitted to go abroad without two or more Norman knights in his company. Which Bernard Newmarch having at length, after a tedious war, got this country out of the hands of the Welsh, he built forts therein, and gave possessions of lands to his fellow-soldiers; amongst whom the chiefest were the Aubreys, Gunters, Haverds, Waldebeofs, and Pritchards; (of these, Roger Gunter, a younger brother of that family, intermarrying with the daughter and heir of Thomas Stodey, 8 Hen. IV. settled at Kintbury or Kentbury in Berkshire. And the better to secure himself amongst his enemies the Welsh, he married Nest, the daughter of prince Gryffydd; who being a woman of a licentious and revengeful temper, at once depriv'd herself of her reputation, and her son of his inheritance. For Mahel the only son of this Bernard, having affronted a young nobleman with whom she conversed too familiarly; she (as the poet saith)

———— *Iram atque animos a crimine sumens,*

Spur'd on by lust to anger and revenge;

depos'd upon oath before king Henry II. that her son Mahel was begotten in adultery, and was not the son of Bernard. Upon which, Mahel being excluded, the estate devolved to his sister Sibyl, and in her right to her husband Miles earl of Hereford; whose five sons dying without issue, this country of Brecknock fell to the share of Bertha his daughter, who had, by Philip de Breos, a son, William de Breos, lord of Brecknock; upon whom the seditious spirit and shrewd tongue of his wife drew infinite calamities. For when she had utter'd reproachful language againk king John, the king strictly commanded her husband, who was deep in his debt, to discharge it immediately. Who after frequent demurrings, at last mortgaged to the king his three castles of Hay, Brecknock, and Radnor; which soon after he surpris'd with a mixt multitude that he had got together, and put the garrisons to the sword: He also burnt the town of Lemster; and with fire, sword, and depredations, continu'd to annoy the country, omitting nothing of the usual practices of rebels. But upon the approach of the king's forces, he withdrew into Ireland, where he associated with the king's enemies: Yet, pretending a submission, he return'd, and surrender'd himself to the king, who was about to follow him; but after many feign'd promises

mises, he again rais'd new commotions in Wales. At last, being compell'd to quit his native country, he died an exile in France. But his wife being taken, suffer'd the worst of miseries; for she was starv'd in prison, and so, did severe penance for her scurrilous language. His son Giles, bishop of Hereford, having (without regard to his nephew, who was the true heir) recover'd his father's estate by permission of king John, left it to his brother Reginald; whose son William was hang'd by Llewelin prince of Wales, who had caught him in adultery with his wife. But by the daughters of that William, the Mortimers, Cantelows, and Bohuns, earls of Hereford, enjoy'd plentiful fortunes. This county of Brecknock fell to the Bohuns, and at length from them to the Staffords; and upon the attainder of Edward Stafford duke of Buckingham, considerable revenues were forfeited to the crown, in this county.

James Butler, afterwards duke of Ormond, was created earl of Brecknock, upon the restoration of king Charles II. in the year 1660.

This county has 61 parishes.

MONMOUTH

MONMOUTHSHIRE.



THE county of Monmouth, call'd formerly Wentset and Weatland, and by the Britains *Gwent* (from an ancient city of that name,) lies south of Brecknockshire and Herefordshire. On the north, it is divided from Herefordshire by the river Mynwy; on the east from Gloucestershire by the river Wye; on the west from Glamorganshire by Rhymni; and on the south it is bounded by the Severn-sea, into which those rivers, as also Usk that runs through the midst of this county) are discharged. It affords not only a competent plenty for the use of the inhabitants, but also abundantly supplies the defects of the neighbouring counties. The east part abounds with pastures and woods; the west part is somewhat mountainous and rocky, but yet rewards to a good degree the pains of the husbandman. The inhabitants (saith Giraldus, writing of the time when he liv'd) *are a valiant and courageous people, inur'd to frequent skirmishes; and the most skilful archers of all the Welsh borderers.*

In the utmost corner of the county southward, call'd Ewias, stands the ancient abbey of Lantoni, not far from the river Mynwy, amongst Hatterel-hills; which, because they bear some resemblance to a chair, are call'd Mynydh Kader. For *kader* is the name of many mountains in Wales; as Kader Arthur, Kader Verwin, Kader Idris, Kader Dhinmael, Kader yr Ychen, &c. which the learned Dr. Davies supposes to have been so call'd, not from their resemblance to a kadair or chair; but because they have been either fortified places, or were looked upon as naturally impregnable, by such as first impos'd those names

names on them. For the British *kader* (as well as the Irish word *ka-thair*) signify'd anciently a fort or bulwark; whence probably the modern word *kaer* of the same signification, might be corrupted. As for Lantoni, it was founded by Walter Lacy, to whom William earl of Hereford gave large possessions here; and from whom those Lacies, so renown'd among the first conquerors of Ireland, were descended. Giraldus Cambrensis (to whom it was well known) can best describe the situation of this small abbey. In the low vale of Ewias (saith he) which is about a bow-shot over, and enclos'd on all sides with high mountains, stands the church of St. John Baptist, cover'd with lead; and, considering the solitariness of the place, not unhandsomely built, with an arched roof of stone; in the same place, where formerly stood a small chappel of St. David the archbishop, recommended with no other ornaments than green moss and ivy. A place fit for the exercise of religion, and the most conveniently seated for canonical discipline, of any monastery in the island of Britain: Built first (to the honour of that solitary life) by two hermits in this desert, remote from all the noise of the world, upon the river Hodeni, which glides through the midst of the vale. Whence it was call'd Lhan Hodeni; the word Lhan signifying a church or religious place. But to speak more accurately, the true name of that place in Welsh is *Nant Hodeni*; for the inhabitants call it at this day, *Lhan-Dhewi yn Nant-Hodeni*, i. e. St. David's church on the river Hodeni. The rains which mountainous places usually produce, are here very frequent; the winds exceeding fierce, and the winters almost continually cloudy. Yet notwithstanding that gross air, it is so temper'd, that this place is very little subject to diseases. The monks sitting here in their cloisters, when they chance to look out for fresh air, have a pleasing prospect, on all hands, of exceeding high mountains, with plentiful herds of wild deer, feeding aloft at the farthest limits of their horizon. The body of the sun surmounts not these hills, so as to be visible to them, till it is past one a clock, even when the air is most clear. And a little after——The fame of this place drew hither Roger bishop of Salisbury, prime minister of state; who having for some time admir'd the situation and retir'd solitariness of it, and also the contended condition of the monks, serving God with due reverence, and their most agreeable and brotherly conversation; and being return'd to the king, and having spent the best part of a day, in the praise of it, he at last thus concluded his discourse: What shall I say more! All the treasure of your majesty and the kingdom would not suffice to build such a cloister.

ster. At which both the king and courtiers being astonished, he at last explain'd that paradox, by telling them he meant the mountains where-with it was on all hands enclos'd. But of this enough, if not too much.

It may be here observ'd, that *Lhan* or *Lan* properly signifies a yard, or some small inclosure; as may be taken notice of in compound words. For we find a vineyard call'd *Gwinlan*; an orchard, *per-lan*; a hay-yard, *yd-lan*; a church-yard, *korph-lan*; a sheepfold, *kor-lan*; &c. However (as Giraldus observes) it denotes separately, a church or chappel; and is of common use, in that sense, throughout all Wales: Probably because such yards or inclosures might be places of worship in the time of Heathenism, or upon the first planting of Christianity, when churches were scarce.

On the river Mynwy are seen the castles of Croismont and Skrinfrith, which formerly, by a grant of king John, belonged to the Breons, but afterwards, to Hubert de Burgh, who (as we are inform'd by Matthew Paris) that he might calm a court-tempest of envy, and be restor'd to favour, resigned up these and two other castles, to wit, Blank and Hanfeld, to king Henry III.

In another corner north-eastward, the river Mynwy and Wye meeting, do almost encompass the chief town of this county, which is thence denominat'd; for the Britains call it *Myrwy*, and we Monmouth. On the north-side, where it is not guarded with the rivers, it is fortify'd with a wall and a ditch. In the midst of the town, near the market-place, stands the castle, which (as we find in the king's records) flourish'd in the time of William the Conqueror; but is thought to have been rebuilt by John baron of Monmouth. From him it came to the house of Lancaster, when king Henry III. had depriv'd him of his inheritance, for espousing so violently the barons interest against him: Or rather, (as we read in the king's prerogative) for that his heirs had pass'd their allegiance to the earl of Britain in France. Since that time, this town has flourish'd considerably, enjoying many privileges granted them by the house of Lancaster. But for no one thing is it so eminent, as for the birth of king Henry V. that triumphant conqueror of France, and second ornament of the Lancastrian family, who, by direct force of arms, subdu'd the kingdom of France, and reduc'd their king, Charles VI. to that extremity, that he did little less than resign his title. Upon whose prosperous success, John Steward, a poet in those times, and none of the lowest rank, bespeaks the English nation in this lofty stile:

*Ite per extremum Tanain, pigrosque Triones,
 Ite per arentem Lybiam, superate calores
 Solis, & arcanos Nili deprendite frontes.
 Herculeum finem, Bacchi transcurrite metas;
 Angli juris erit quicquid complectitur orbis.
 Anglis rubra dabunt pretiosas æquora conchas,
 Indus ebur, ramos Panchia, vellere Seres,
 Dum viget Henricus, dum noster vivit Achilles :
 Est etenim laudes longe transgressus avitas.*

March on, brave souls, to Tanais bend your arms,
 And rowze the lazy north with just alarms.
 Beneath the torrid zone your enemies spread;
 Make trembling Nile disclose its secret head.
 Surprise the world's great limits with your hast,
 Where neither Alcides nor old Bacchus past.
 Let daily triumphs raise you vast renown,
 The world and all its treasures are your own.
 Yours are the pearls that grace the Persian sea,
 You rich Panchæa, India and Catay
 With spicy, ivory barks, and silk supply,
 While Henry, great Achilles of our land,
 Blest with all joys extends his wide command.
 Whose noble deeds and worthy fame surpass
 The ancient glories of his heavenly race.

Monmouth also glories in the birth of Galfridus Arthurius, bishop of St. Asaph, who compil'd the British History; an author well skill'd in antiquities, but, as it seems, not of entire credit: So many ridiculous fables of his own invention hath he inserted in that work. Inasmuch that he is now rank'd amongst those writers that are prohibited by the church of Rome. But altho' this Jeffrey of Monmouth (as well as most other writers of the Monkish times) abounds with fables, which is not deny'd by such as contend for some authority to that history; yet that those fables were of his own invention, may seem too severe a censure, and scarce a just accusation: Since we find most or all of them, in that British history he translated; of which an ancient copy may be seen in the library of Jesus-College at Oxford, which concludes to this effect: Walter, archdeacon of Oxford, compos'd

pos'd this book in Latin, out of British records : Which he afterwards thus render'd into modern British. We find also many of the same fables in Ninnus, who writ his *Eulogium Britanniae* about three hundred years before this Galfridus Arturius compos'd the British history. As to the regard due to that history in general, the judicious reader may consult Doctor Powel's epistle *De Britannica Historia recte intelligenda* and Doctor Davies's preface to his British Lexicon: and ballance them with the arguments and authority of those who wholly reject it.

Near Monmouth stands a noble house, built by Henry late duke of Beaufort, call'd Troy; and heretofore the residence of his eldest son Charles, marquiss of Worcester, who was the owner of it, and of the castle and manour of Monmouth, which were settled upon him with other large possessions in this county, by the duke his father.

The river Wye (wherein they take salmon plentifully from September to April) is continu'd from hence southward with many windings and turnings. It is now the limit between Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire; but was formerly the boundary betwixt the Welsh and English; according to that verse of Necham :

Inde vagos Vaga Cambrenses, hinc respicit Anglos.

Hence Wye the English views, and thence the Welsh.

Near its fall into the Severn-Sea, it passes by Chepstow, which is a Saxon name, and signifies a market or place of trading. In British it is call'd *Kaswent* or *Castell Gwent*. It is a town of good note, built on a hill close by the river, and guarded with walls of a considerable circumference, which take in several fields and orchards. The castle is very fair, standing on the brink of the river: And on the opposite side, there stood a priory, whereof the better part being demolish'd, the remainder is converted into a parish-church. The bridge here over the Wye is built upon piles, and is exceeding high; which was necessary, because the tide rises here to a great height. The lords of this place were the Clares earls of Pembroke; who from a neighbouring castle call'd Strighul, where they liv'd, were commonly call'd earls of Strighul and Pembroke: Of whom Richard the last earl, a man of invincible courage and strength (surnam'd Strongbow from his excellency in archery,) was the first that made way for the English into Ireland.

Ireland. By his daughter it descended to the Bigots, &c. and now it belongs to the earls of Worcester, created since dukes of Beaufort. This place seems to be of no great antiquity; for several do affirm, and not without reason, that it had its rise not many ages past, from the ancient city Venta, which flourish'd about four miles from hence in the time of Antoninus, who calls it Venta Silurum, as if it was their chief city. Which name neither arms nor time have been able to consume; for at this day it is call'd Kaer-went, or the city Venta. But the city itself is so much destroy'd by the one or the other, that it only appears to have once been, from the ruinous walls, the checquer'd pavements, and the Roman coins. In the year 1689, there were three checquer'd pavements discover'd in a garden here; which being in frosty weather expos'd to the open air, upon the thaw the cement was dissolv'd, and this valuable antiquity utterly defac'd. So that at present there remains nothing for the entertainment of the curious, but the small cubical stones whereof it was compos'd; which are of various sizes and colours, and may be found confusedly scatter'd in the earth, at the depth of half a yard. Checquer'd pavements consist of oblong cubical stones, commonly about half an inch in length; whereof some are natural stones, wrought into that form; and others artificial, made like brick. These are of several colours; as white, black, blue, green, red, and yellow; and are close pitch'd together in a floor of fine plaister, and so dispos'd by the artist, with respect to colour, as to exhibit any figures of men, beasts, birds, trees, &c. In one of those pavements, as the owner relates, were delineated several flowers, which he compar'd to roses, tulips, and flowers de luce; and at each of the four corners, a crown, and a peacock holding a snake in his bill, and treading it under one foot. Another had the figure of a man in armour from the breast upward. There were also Imperial heads, and some other variety of figures, which, had they been preserv'd, might have been instructive, as well as diverting, to the curious in the study of antiquities. In their gardens, and elsewhere in this village, they frequently meet with brass coins: Which have been diligently collected by an ingenious and worthy gentleman of that neighbourhood. In that collection, there is an adulterated coin of Antoninus Pius, which seems to have been counterfeited not of late, but anciently, when that emperor's coins were current money. It is a brass piece, of the bigness of a denarius, and cover'd with a very thin leaf of silver; which when rubb'd off, the letters disappear. Also Julia Mæxia, of embas'd metal, not unlike

our tin farthings. Others were of Valerianus, Gallienus, Probus, Dioclesianus, Constantius Chlorus, Constantinus Magnus, Julius Crispus, Constans, and both Valentinians.

The city took up about a mile in circumference: On the south-side, a considerable part of the wall is yet remaining, and more than the ruins of three bastions. What repute it had heretofore, we may gather from hence; that before the name of Monmouth was heard of, this whole country was call'd from it Guent, Went-set or Wents-land. Moreover, (as we read in the life of Tathaius a British saint) it was formerly an academy, or place dedicated to literature, which the same Tathaius govern'd with great commendation, and also founded a church there, in the reign of king Kradok ap-Ynyr, who invited him hither from an hermitage.

The foresaid English names of Went-set and Wents-land have indeed their original from the British *Gwent*; by which almost all this country, and part of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, were call'd, till Wales was divided into counties. But it is made a question by some, whether that name *Gwent* be owing to the city Venta; or whether the Romans might not call this city, Venta Silurum, as well as that of the Iceni, and that other of the Belgæ, from the more ancient British names of part of their countries. Had the country been denominated since the Roman conquest, from the chief city, it had been more properly call'd *Gwlad Gaer-Lheion*, than *Gwlad Gwent*. But of this enough, if not too much. Five miles to the west of Kaerwent, is seated Strighul-castle at the bottom of the hills; which now we call Struggle, but the Normans Estrig-hill; built (as we find in Domestday-book) by William Fitz-Osbern earl of Hereford; and afterwards the seat of the Clares, earls of Pembroke; whence they have been also commonly call'd earls of Strighull. Beneath these places, upon the Severn-sea, not far from the mouth of the river Wye, lies Port Skeweth, call'd by Marianus, Port-Skith, who informs us, that Harald built a fort there against the Welsh in the year 1066, which they immediately overthrew, under the conduct of Karadok. Near Caldecot, where the river Throgoy enters the Severn-sea, I observ'd the wall of a castle, which formerly belong'd to the constables of England, and was held by the service of the constableship of England. Not far from hence are Wondy and Penhow, the seats formerly of the illustrious family of St. Maur, corruptly call'd Seimour. For we find that about the year 1240. (in order to wrest Wondy out of the hands of the Welsh) G. Marefcal earl of Pembroke was oblig'd

lig'd to assist William of St. Maur. From whom was descended Roger of St. Maur knight, who marry'd one of the coheirs of the illustrious J. Beauchamp, baron of Hach; who was descended from Sibyl, one of the coheirs of that most puissant William Marshal earl of Pembroke, from William Ferrars earl of Derby, Hugh de Vivon, and William Mallet, men of great eminence in their times. The nobility of all which, as also of several other (as may be made very evident) center'd in the right honourable Edward de St. Maur or Seymour, earl of Hereford, a singular encourager of virtue and learning; for which he is deservedly to be celebrated.

The fenny tract, extended below this for some miles, is call'd the Moor; which at my present reviewing these notes, has suffer'd a most lamentable devastation. For the Severn-sea after a spring-tide, having before been driven back by a south-west-wind (which continu'd for three days without intermission) and then again repuls'd by a very forcible sea-wind, rose to such a high and violent tide, as to overflow all this lower tract, and also that of Somersetshire over-against it, throwing down several houses, and overwhelming a considerable number of cattle and men. In the borders of this fenny tract, where the land rises, lies Goldcliff; so call'd (saith Giraldus) because when the sun shines, the stones appear of a bright gold colour. Nor can I be easily perswaded (saith he) that nature hath bestow'd this colour on the stones in vain; or that it would be found merely a flower without fruit, should some skilful artist search the veins and bowels of this rock. In this place there remain some ruins of an old priory, founded by one of the family of Chandois.

From hence we come through a fenny country to the mouth of the river Isca, call'd by the Britains *Wysk*, in English *Usk*, and by others *Oſca*. This river (as we have already observ'd) taking its course through the midst of the county, passes by three small cities of great antiquity. The first, on the north-west-border of the county, call'd by Antoninus Gobannium, is situate at the confluence of the rivers *Wysk* and *Govenni*; and thence denominated. It is at this day (retaining its ancient appellation) call'd *Abergavenni*, and by contraction *Abergaenni*; which signifies the confluence of *Gavenni* or *Gobannium*. It is fortify'd with walls and a castle, which (as Giraldus observes) has been oftener stain'd with the infamy of treachery, than any other castle of Wales: First, by William son of earl Miles, and afterwards by William Breos; both having, upon publick assurance, and under pretence of friendship, invited thither some of the Welsh nobility,

bility, and then basely murder'd them. But they escap'd not the just vengeance of God; for Breos having been depriv'd of all his effects (also, his wife and son starv'd with hunger) dy'd in exile. The other having his brains dash'd out with a stone, while Breulas-castle was on fire, receiv'd at length the due reward of his villany. The first lord of Abergavenni, that I know of, was one Hamelin Balun, who made Brien Wallingford, or Brient L' Isle (call'd also Fitz-Count) his heir. And he having built here an hospital for his two sons, who were lepers, left the greatest part of his inheritance to Walter the son of Miles, earl of Hereford. This Walier was succeeded by his brother Henry, whom the Welsh slew, when they invaded his territories; which the king's lieutenants defended, though not without great hazard and danger. By the sister of Henry it descended to the Breoses; and from them, in right of marriage, by the Cantelows and Hastings, to Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin. But William Beauchamp obtain'd it of the lord Grey, by conveyance: And he again, in default of issue-male, entail'd it on his brother Thomas earl of Warwick, and on his heirs-male. Richard son of William Beauchamp, lord of Abergavenni, who, for his military valour, was created earl of Worcester, and being slain in the wars of France, left one only daughter, who was marry'd to Edward Nevil. From henceforth, the Nevils became eminent under the title of barons of Abergavenni. But the castle was a long time detain'd from them, by reason of the conveyance before-mention'd. The fourth of these dying in our memory, left one only daughter Mary, marry'd to Sir Thomas Fane, knight: between whom and Sir Edward Nevil the next heir-male (to whom the castle and most of the estate had been left by will, which was also confirm'd by authority of parliament) there was a trial for the title of baron of Abergavenni, before the House of Lords, in the second year of king James I. the pleadings on both sides taking up seven days. But in regard the question of right could not be fully adjusted; and that each of them seem'd to all (in respect of descent) very worthy of the title; and that moreover, it was evident, that both the title of baron of Abergavenni, and that of Le Despenser, belong'd hereditarily to this family: The peers requesting of his majesty, that both might be honour'd with the title of baron; to which he agreed. It was then propos'd to the peers by the lord chancellor, first, Whether the heir-male or female should enjoy the title of Abergavenni; upon which the majority of voices gave it for the heir-male. And when he had again propos'd, Whether the title of baron Le Despenser should be

D conferr'd

conferr'd on the female and her heirs, they unanimously agreed to it; to which his majesty gave his royal assent. And Edward Nevil was soon after summoned to parliament by the king's writ, under the title of baron of Abergavenni. And being according to the usual ceremony, introduc'd in his parliament-robes between two barons; he was plac'd above the baron de Audeley. At the same time also, the king's letters patents were read before the peers, whereby his majesty restor'd, advanc'd, preferr'd, &c. Mary Fane, to the state, degree, title, stile, name, honour, and dignity of baroness Le Despenser; and that her heirs successively should be barons Le Despenser, &c. But the question of precedency being propos'd, the peers referr'd the decision thereof to the commissioners for the office of earl Marshal of England, who, upon mature deliberation, gave it under their hands and seals for the barony of Le Despenser. This was read before the peers, and by their order register'd in their Journal; out of which I have taken this account, in short. Edward was succeeded in the honour of baron of Abergavenni, by his son and heir of the same name; to whom succeeded Henry his son, and likewise John, son of the said Henry;) and George (brother and heir to the said John;) who was also succeeded by George his son. Who dying without issue, the title of lord Abergavenni descended to George (son of George Nevil of Sheffield in the county of Suffex, great grandson to Edward lord of Abergavenni,) who now enjoys it. What ought not to be here omitted, is, that John Hastings held this castle by homage, ward, and marriage. When it happens (as we read in the Inquisition) and there shall chance to be war between the king of England and prince of Wales; he ought to defend the country of Over-went at his own charge, to the utmost of his power, for the good of himself, the king, and kingdom.

The second town, call'd by Antoninus Burrium (who places it twelve miles from Gobannium,) is seated where the river Byrdhin falls into Usk. It is call'd now in British, by a transposition of letters, *Brynbiga* for *Burenbegi*, and also *Kaer-wysk*, by Giraldus *Castum Oskæ*, and in English Usk. At this day, it shews only the ruins of a large strong castle, pleasantly seated between the river Usk, and Oilwy a small brook, which takes its course from the east, by Ragland, an elegant and castle-like house of the earl of Worcester (now duke of Beaufort,) and passes under it.

The third city, call'd by Antoninus *Isca* and *Legio secunda* (seated on the other side of the river Usk, and distant, as he observes, exactly twelve Italian miles from Burrium) is call'd by the Britains *Kaer Lleon*

Lheon and *Kaer Lheion ar wysk*) which signifies the city of the Legion on the river Usk) from the *Legio Secunda Augusta*, which was also called *Britannica Secunda*. This Legion, infused by Augustus, and translated out of Germany into Britain by Claudius under the conduct of Vespasian (to whom, upon his aspiring to the empire, it prov'd very serviceable, and did also secure him his British Legions,) was plac'd here at length by Julius Frontinus (as seems probable) in garrison against the Silures. How great a city this Ilica was at that time, our Giraldus informs us, in his Itinerary of Wales. A very ancient city this was (saith he) and enjoy'd honourable privileges; and was elegantly built by the Romans with brick walls. There are yet remaining many footsteps of its ancient splendour: Stately palaces, which formerly with their gilded tiles emulated the Roman grandeur, for that it was first built by the Roman nobility, and adorned with sumptuous edifices: Also, an exceeding high tower, remarkable hot baths, ruins of ancient temples, theatrical places encompass'd with stately walls, which are, partly, yet standing. Subterraneous edifices are frequently met with, not only within the walls, but also in the suburbs; as, aqueducts, vaults, and (which is well worth our observation) hypocausts or stoves, contriv'd with admirable artifice, conveying heat insensibly through some very narrow vents on the sides. Two very eminent, and (next to St. Alban and Amphibalus) the chief protomartyrs of *Britannia major*, lye entomb'd here, where they were crown'd with martyrdom, viz. Julius and Aaron; each of whom had a church dedicated to him in this city. For in ancient times there were three noble churches here. One of Julius the martyr, grac'd with a quire of nuns; another dedicated to St. Aaron his companion, enobled with a famous order of canons; and the third honour'd with the metropolitan see of Wales. Amphibalus also, teacher of St. Alban, who sincerely instructed him in the faith, was born here. This city is excellently seated on the navigable river Usk; and beautified with meadows and woods. Here, the Roman embassadors receiv'd their audience at the illustrious court of the great king Arthur. And here also archbishop Dubricius resigned that honour to David of Menevia, by translating the archiepiscopal see from this city thither. Thus far Giraldus.

In the year 1692. a checquer'd pavement was discover'd in the grounds of Henry Tomkins of Kaerleon, Esq; It was found by workmen who were plowing in a field close adjoining to his house. And here we may observe, that these ancient pavements are not buried

so deep in this county, as that in the church-yard at Woodchester in Gloucestershire. For whereas that lies at about three foot deep, this at Kaer Leion (as also some others formerly discover'd,) lay no deeper than the plow-share; and that above-mention'd at Kaer-went, not much lower. The said worthy person took all possible care, to preserve what the servants had not spoil'd of this valuable antiquity; by removing a considerable part of the floor in the same order it was found, into his garden; and was pleas'd to communicate a draught of the whole to be publish'd upon this occasion. The diameter of it is about fourteen foot. All the arches, and that part of the border they touch, were compos'd of white, red, and blue stones, varied alternately. The bills, eyes, and feet of the birds were red, and they had also a red ring about the neck; and in their wings, one or two of the longest feathers red, and another blue. The inside of the cups were also red; and elsewhere, whatever we have not excepted of this whole area, is variegated of umber or dark-colour'd stones and white.

About sixty years since, some labourers digging in a quarry betwixt Kaer Leion bridge and Christ-church (near a place call'd *Porth Sui Kran*) discover'd a large coffin of free-stone; which being open'd, they found therein a leaden sheet, wrap'd about an iron frame, curiously wrought; and in that frame a skeleton. Near the coffin they found also a gilded alabaster statue of a person in a coat of mail; holding in the right-hand a short sword, and in the left a pair of scales. In the right scale appear'd a young maiden's head and breasts; and in the left (which was out-weigh'd by the former) a globe. This account of the coffin and statue I receiv'd from the worshipful Captain Matthias Bird, who saw both himself; and, for the further satisfaction of the curious, was pleas'd to present the statue to the Ashmolean repository at Oxford. The feet and right-arm have been broken some years since, as also the scales; but in all other respects, it is tolerably well preserv'd; and some of the gilding still remains in the interstices of the armour. We have given a figure of it, amongst some other curiosities relating to antiquity, at the end of these counties of Wales: But must leave the explication to some more experienc'd and judicious antiquary; for though at first view it might seem to be the Goddess Astræa, yet I cannot satisfy myself as to the device of the globe and woman in the scales; and am unwilling to trouble the reader with too many conjectures.

Amongst other Roman antiquities frequently dug-up here, we may take notice of the curious earthen vessels; of which some are plain,
and

and the same with those red patellæ or earthen plates often discover'd in several parts of England; but others are adorn'd with elegant figures; which, were they preserv'd, might be made use of for the illustration of Roman authors, as well as their coyns, statues, altars, &c. That, of which I have given a figure, represents to us, first, as an emblem of piety, the celebrated history of the woman at Rome, who being deny'd the liberty of relieving her father in prison with any food, yet obtaining free access to him, fed him with the milk of her own breasts. I am sensible, that in Pliny and in most printed copies of such authors as mention this history, we are inform'd she exercis'd this piety to her mother: But this figure (though it be somewhat obscure) seems to represent a bearded man: However, whether I mistake the figure, or whether we may read with Festus, *Patre* (not *matre*) *carcere incluso*, or rather, to suppose the tradition to have been erroneous (in some provinces at least) amongst the vulgar Romans; that the same history was hereby intended, is sufficiently evident. In the second place, we find an auspex or soothsayer looking upwards to observe the motion of a bird; or rather perhaps a cupid (according to the potter's fancy) performing the office of a soothsayer. And in the third, a woman-sacrificing with vervian and frankincense: For I am satisfied, that the plant on the altar is no other than vervein; and it seems very probable, that the woman who reaches her hand towards the altar, is casting frankincense on the vervein, since we find that women, a little before their time of lying-in, sacrificed to *Lucina* with vervein and frankincense. Thus the harlot *Phronesium* in *Plautus*, pretending she was to lie-in, bids her maids provide her sweet-meats, oyl of cinnamon, myrrhe, and vervein.

We may also collect out of *Virgil*, that women sacrific'd with vervein and frankincense upon other occasions.

*Effër aquam & molli cinge hæc altaria vitta :
Verbenasque adole pingues & mascula thura,
Conjugis ut magicis sanos avertere sacros
Experiar sensus.*—————

Bring running water; bind those altars round
With fillets; and with vervian strow the ground,
Make fat with frankincense the sacred fires;
To rekindle my daphnis with desires.

As for the naked person on the other side of the altar, I shall not pretend to determine whether it be her husband, or who else is intended by it. In regard we find the other figures repeated alternately; I suppose there were no other delineations on the whole vessel, than what this piece, included within the crack (which is all I have of it) represents. By the figures on this vessel, we might conjecture that it was a bowl used in those feasts which they call'd Matronalia, and observ'd on the kalends of March; when the married women sacrificed to Juno, for their happy delivery in child-births, and for the preservation of their husbands, and the continuance of their mutual affections. And from its form, I should guess it was that sort of vessel they call'd Phiala: because in Welsh the only name we have for such vessels is *phiol*; which is doubtless of the same origin with the Greek and Latin *phiala*, and is very probably one of those many words left amongst us by the Romans, which we may presume to be still preserv'd in the sense they us'd them.

I shall only mention two other curiosities found here, and detain the reader no longer in this county: The first is, a ram's horn of brass, much of the bigness and form of a lesser ram's horn; broken off at the root, as if it had been formerly united to a brass head. One of these heads and horns (though somewhat different from ours) may be seen in Lodovico Moscardo's Musæum; who supposes such heads of rams and oxen to have serv'd at once both for ornaments in their temples, and also for religious types of sacrifice.

The other is a very elegant and an entire *fibula vestiaria*, of which (because it would be difficult to give an intelligible description of it) I have given two figures, one being not sufficient to express it. It is of brass, and is curiously checquer'd on the back part, with enamel of red and blue. It should seem, that when they us'd it, the ring at the upper end was drawn down over the *acus* or pin; and that a thread or small string ty'd thro' the ring, and about the notches at bottom, secur'd the *acus* in its proper place. Such a *fibula* in all respects, but that it is somewhat less, was found Anno 1691, near King's Cotte in Gloucestershire. They that would be farther satisfy'd of the various forms and matter of these Roman *fibulae*, and the several uses they were apply'd to, may consult, amongst other authors, the learned and ingenious *Joannes Rhodius de Acia*, and *Smetius's Antiquitates Nesmagenses*.

Here also, at this Kaerlheim, about the time of Saxon Conquest, was an academy of two hundred philosophers, who being skill'd in astronomy
and

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

31

and other sciences, observ'd the courses of the stars, as we are inform'd by Alexander Elsebientis, a very scarce author; out of whom much has been transcrib'd for my use by the learned Thomas James of Oxford, who may deservedly be stil'd *Philobiblos*, as one who is wholly intent upon books and learning; and is at present (God prosper his endeavours) out of a desire of promoting the publick good, employ'd in searching the libraries of England, on a design that is like to be of singular use to the commonwealth of learning.

In the time of king Henry II. when Giraldus wrote, this city seems to have been a place of considerable strength. For we find, that *Irwith* (or rather, perhaps, *Iorweth*) of Kaerlheion, a courageous Britain, defended it a long time against the English; till at last, being over-power'd by the king, he was dispossest of it. But now (a fair instance that cities as well as men have their changes and vicissitudes) that is become a small inconsiderable town, which once was of so great extent on each side the river, that they affirm St. Gilians (the house of the honourable Sir William Herbert, a person no less eminent for wit and judgment than noble extraction) to have been part of the city; and in that place the church of Julius the martyr is said to have stood; which is now about a mile out of the town.

From the ruins also of this city, Newport had its beginning, which is seated a little lower, at the mouth of the river Usk. By Giraldus, it is call'd *Novus Burgus*. It is a town of later date; but of considerable note for a castle and a convenient harbour: Where was formerly some Military way, mentioned by Necham in these verses:

*Intrat, & auget aquas Sabrinis fluminis Osca
Præcep; testis erit Julia Strata mibi.*

Increas'd with Usk does Severn rise,
As Julia Strata testifies.

That this Julia Strata was a way, we have no reason to question: And if we may be free to conjecture, it seems not absurd to suppose it took its name from Julius Frontinus who conquer'd the Silures. Not far from Newburgh (saith Giraldus) there glides a small stream call'd Nant Penkarn, unpassable but at some certain fords, not so much for the depth of its water, as the hollownes of the channel, and deepness of the mud. It had formerly a ford call'd Rhyd Penkarn, i. e. a ford under the head of
the

the rock, which has been now of a long time discontinu'd. Henry II. king of England having by chance pass'd this ford; the Welsh (who rely too much upon old prophecies) were presently discourag'd, and reckon'd their case desperate; because their oracle Merlinus Sylvester had foretold, that whenever a strong prince with a freckled face (such king Henry was) should pass that ford, the British forces should be vanquish'd.

During the Saxon heptarchy, this county was subject to the Mountain-Welsh, call'd by them *Dunfettan*; who, notwithstanding, were under the government of the West-Saxons, as appears by the ancient laws. At the first coming-in of the Normans, the lords Marchers grievously plagu'd and annoy'd them: Especially the above-mentioned Hamelin Balun, Hugh Lacy, Walter and Gilbert de Clare and Brien of Wallingford. To whom the kings having granted all they could acquire in these parts, some of them reduc'd by degrees the upper part of this county, which they call'd *Over-Went*, and others the low-lands, call'd *Nether-Went*.

In the first year of king Charles I. Robert lord Carey was created earl of Monmouth, and was succeeded by Henry of the same name: Who dying without issue-male, James Fitz-Roy, among other honours, was created duke of Monmouth, 15 Car. II. And in the first year of king William and queen Mary, Charles, son of John earl of Peterborough (by Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Carey second son to Robert earl of Monmouth) was created earl of Monmouth; who at present enjoys that title, together with his other of earl of Peterborough.

Parish-churches in this county, 127.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.



THE farthest county of the Silures seems to be that which we call Glamorganshire, and the Britains *Morganwg*, *Gwlad Morgan*, and *Gwlad Verganwg*, which signifies the city of *Morganwg*. It was so call'd (as most imagine) from Morgan a prince; or (as others suppose) from an abbey of that name. But if I should deduce it from the British *mor*, which signifies the sea, I know not whether I should deviate from the truth. However, I have observ'd that maritime town of Armorica, which we now call *Morlais*, to have been call'd by Ptolemy and the ancient Gauls *Vorganium*, or *Morganium* (for the consonants M and V are often counterchanged in this language:) And whence shall we suppose it so denominated, but from the sea? And this our *Morganwg* also is altogether maritime; being a long narrow country, wholly washed on the south-side by the Severn-sea. As for the inner-part of it, it is border'd on the east with Monmouthshire, on the north with Brecknockshire, and on the west with Kaermarthen-shire.

On the north, it is very rugged with mountains, which, as they come nearer the south, are by degrees more fit for tillage; at the bottom whereof we have a spacious vale or plain open to the south-sun; a situation which Cato prefer'd to all others, and for which Pliny doth so commend Italy. For this part of the country is exceeding pleasant, both in regard of the fertility of the soil, and the number of towns and villages.

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In the reign of William Rufus, Jestin ap Gwrgant lord of this country, having revolted from his natural prince, Rhys ap Tewdwr, and being too weak to maintain his rebellion, did very unadvisedly, which he too late repented, call to his assistance (by the mediation of Enion ap Kadivor a nobleman, who had married his daughter) Robert Fitz-Haimon a Norman, son of Haimon Dentatus earl of Corboil. Who forthwith levied an army of choice soldiers, and taking to his assistance twelve knights as adventurers in this enterprize, first gave Rhys battle, and slew him; and afterwards being allur'd with the fertility of the country, which he had before conceiv'd sure hopes to be lord of, turning his forces against Jestin himself, for that he had not kept his articles with Enion, he soon deprived him of the inheritance of his ancestors, and divided the country amongst his partners. The barren mountains he granted to Enion; but the fertile plains he divided amongst these twelve associates (whom he called peers) and himself; on this condition, "that they should their land in fee and vassalage of him as their chief lord, to assist each other in common; and that each of them should defend his station in his castle of Cardiffe, and attend him in his court for the administration of justice." It may not perhaps be foreign to our purpose, if we add their names out of a book written on this subject, either by Sir Edward Stradling, or Sir Edward Maunsel (for it is ascribed to both of them) both being very well skill'd in genealogy and antiquities.

William of London, or de Londres.

Richard Granvil.

Pain Turbervil.

Oliver St. John.

Robert de St. Quintin.

Roger Bekeroul.

William Easterling (so called, for that he was descended from Germany) whose posterity were call'd Stradlings.

Gilbert Humfranvil.

Richard Siward.

John Flemming.

Peter Soore.

Reginald Sully.

The river Rhymny, coming down from the mountains, makes the eastern limit of this county, whereby it is divided from Monmouthshire;

shire; and in the British, *Remny* signifies to divide. In a moorish bottom, not far from this river, where it runs through places scarce passable, among the hills, are seen the ruinous walls of *Caer-phily-castle*, which has been of that vast magnitude, and such an admirable structure, that most affirm it to have been a Roman garrison; nor shall I deny it, though I cannot yet discover by what name they called it. However, it should seem to have been re-edified; in regard it has a chappel built after the Christian manner, as I was informed by the learned and judicious Mr. J. Sanford, who took an accurate survey of it. It was once the possessions of the Clares earls of Gloucester; but we find no mention of it in our Annals, till the reign of Edward II. For at that time, the Spensers having by under-hand practices set the king and queen and the barons at variance, we read that Hugolin Spenser was a long time besieged in this castle, but without success. It is probably the noblest ruin of ancient architecture now remaining in Britain. For in the judgment of some curious persons, who have seen and compared it with the most noted castles of England, it exceeds all in bigness, except that of Windsor. That place which Mr. Sanford call'd a chappel, was probably the same name with that which the neighbouring inhabitants call the hall. It is a stately room about seventy foot in length, thirty-four in breadth, and seventeen in height. On the south-side we ascend to it by a direct stair-case, about eight foot wide; the roof whereof is vaulted and supported with twenty arches, which are still gradually higher as you ascend. The entry out of this stair-case, is not into the middle, but somewhat nearer to the west-end of the room; and opposite to it on the north-side, there is a chimney about ten foot wide. On the same side there are four stately windows (if so we may suppose them) two on each side the chimney, of the fashion of church-windows, but that they are continued down to the very floor, and reach up higher, than the height of this room is supposed to have been; so that the room above this chappel, or hall, had some part of the benefit of them. The sides of these windows are adorn'd with certain three-leav'd knobs or husks, having a fruit or small round ball in the midst. On the walls, on each side the room, are seven triangular pillars, like the shafts of candlesticks, plac'd at equal distance. From the floor to the bottom of these pillars, may be about twelve foot and a half; and their height or length seem'd above four foot. Each of these pillars is supported with three busts, or head and breasts, which vary alternately. For whereas the first (for instance) is supported

with the head and breast of an ancient bearded man and two young faces on each side, all with dishevel'd hair; the next shews the face and breasts of a woman with two lesser faces also on each side, the middlemost or bigg'est having a cloth tied under the chin and about the forehead; the lesser two having also forehead-cloths, but none under the chin, all with braided locks. The use of these pillars seems to have been, for supporting the beams; but there are also on the south-side six grooves or channels in the wall at equal distance, which are about nine inches wide, and eight or nine foot high: Four whereof are continued from the tops of the pillars; but the two middlemost are about the middle space between the pillars, and come down lower than the rest, having neat stones jutting out at the bottom, as if intended to support something placed in the hollow grooves. On the north-side, near the east-end, there is a door about eight foot high; which leads into a spacious green about seventy yards long and forty broad. At the east-end there are two low arch'd doors, within a yard of each other; and there was a third near the south-side, but much larger; and another opposite to that on the west-end. The reason why I have been thus particular, is, that such as have been curious in observing ancient buildings, might the better discern whether this room was once a chappel, or hall, &c. and also in some measure judge of the antiquity of the place; which, as far as I could hitherto be inform'd, is beyond the reach of history.

That this castle was originally built by the Romans, seems indeed highly probable, when we consider its largeness and magnificence. Though at the same time we must acknowledge, that we have no other reason to conclude it Roman, but the stateliness of its structure. For whereas most or all Roman cities and forts of note, afford (in the revolution at least of fifty or sixty years) either Roman inscriptions, statues, bricks, coyns, arms, or other utensils; I could not find, upon diligent enquiry, that any of their monuments were ever discovered here. I have indeed two coyns found at this castle; one of silver, which I receiv'd amongst many greater favours, from the right worshipful Sir John Aubrey of Lhan Trydhyd, Baronet; and the other of brass, which I purchas'd at Kaer-phily, of the person that found it in the castle. Neither of these are either Roman, Saxon, Danish, or Norman. That of silver is as broad as a sixpence, but thinner, and exhibits on one side the image of our Saviour with this inscription, GUORIA* TIBLK. . . . and on the reverse, two persons with these letters, MVgNgTIR ON** This being compar'd with an
account

account of a fairer coyn in the celebrated collection of Mr. Thoresby of Leeds, appears to have been a Venetian piece. In that coin, before the M, on the reverse, is S for Sanctus Marcus, whose figure is there, with a glory about the head; then follows the particodoge's name with DVX; besides the banner, which is jointly supported by both. Upon the reverse of some, are GLORIA, and upon others LAVS TIBI SOLI. The brass coyn is like the French pieces of the middle age, and shews on the obverse, a prince crown'd, in a standing posture, holding a scepter in his right-hand, with this inscription *AVFQD* xRSQI *Ave Maria*, &c. and on the reverse, a cross flooree with these letters, *x**Λ**V**Q* *Ave*.

Taking it for granted that this place was of Roman foundation, I should be apt to conjecture (but that BVLLÆVM hath been hitherto placed in another country,) that what we now call Kaer-phyli, was the Bullæum Silurum of the Romans. And if there was no other ground to place it at Bualht in Brecknockshire, but the affinity of the names, and the situation in the country of the Silures; we also may urge, that the name of Kaer-phyli comes as near Castrum Bullat, as Bualht. For they who understand the British tongue, will readily allow, that Bullæum could not well be otherwise expressed in that language, than *Kaer-Vwl*, *Kaer-Vul* (which must be pronounced *Kaer-Vul*) or, like some other names of places, from the genitive case, *Kaer-Vy-li*. That this place was also in the country of the Silures, is not controverted: And farther, that it has been a Roman garrison, is so likely, from the stately ruins yet remaining, that most persons of curiosity, who have seen it, take it for granted. Whereas I cannot learn that any thing was ever discover'd at Bualht, that might argue it to have been inhabited by the Romans; much less a place of note in their time, as Bullæum Silurum must needs have been.

Upon the river Rhyunny also (tho' the place is uncertain) Ninnius informs us, that Faugus, a pious godly son of Vortigern a most wicked father, erected a most stately edifice. Where, with other devout men, he daily pray'd to God, that he would not punish him for the sins of his father, who committing most abominable incest, had begotten him on his own daughter: and that his father might at last seriously repent, and the country be freed from the Saxon war.

A little lower, Ptolemy places the mouth of Rhatoftabius, or Rhatoftibius, a main'd word for the British word *Traeth Taf*, which signifies the sandy frith of the river Taf. For there the river Taf coming down from the mountains, falls into the sea at Lan-daf, that is, the

the church on the river Taf, a small place seated in a bottom, but dignified with a bishop's see (in the diocese whereof are one hundred fifty-four parishes) and adorn'd with a cathedral, consecrated to St. Teiliau, bishop thereof. This church was then erected by the two Gallick bishops, Germanus and Lupus, when they had suppress'd the Pelagian heresie which prevail'd so much in Britain: And Dubricius, a most devout man, was by them first prefer'd to the bishoprick, to whom Meurick a British prince granted all the lands between the rivers Taf and Eli. From hence continues its course to Caerdiff, in British *Kaer Dydb*, a neat town considering the country, and a commodious haven; fortified with walls and a castle by the conqueror Fitz-Haimon, who made it both the seat of war, and a court of justice. Where, besides a standing army of choice soldiers, the twelve knights or peers were oblig'd, each of them, to defend their several stations. Notwithstanding which, a few years after, one Ivor Bach, a Britain who dwelt in the mountains, a man of small stature, but of a resolute courage, march'd hither with a band of soldiers privately by night, and seiz'd the castle, carrying away William earl of Gloucester, Fitz-Haimon's grandson by a daughter, together with his wife and son, whom he detain'd prisoners till he had receiv'd satisfaction for all injuries. But how Robert Curthose, eldest son of William the Conqueror (a man in martial prowess but two adventurous and foolhardy) was deprived by his younger brothers of all hopes of succession to the crown, and, being bereft of both his eyes, lived in this castle, till he became an old man; may be seen in our English historians. Whereby we may also learn, That to be born of the blood-royal, does not ensure to us either liberty or safety.

Scarce three miles from the mouth of the river Taf, in the very winding of the shore, there are two small, but very small islands, divided from each other, and also from the main land, by a narrow frith. The highermost is call'd Sully, from a town opposite to it; to which Robert de Sully (whose share it was in the division) is thought to have given name; though we may as well suppose he took his name from it. The farthest is call'd Barry, from St. Baruch who lies buried there; and as he gave name to the place, so the place afterwards gave surname to its proprietors. For that that noble family of viscount Barry in Ireland, had its name and original from thence. In a maritime rock of this island, saith Giraldus, there is a narrow chink or cleft, to which if you put your ear, you shall perceive such a noise as if smiths were at work there. For sometimes you hear

“ the

“ the blowing of the bellows, at other times the strokes of the hammers; also the grinding of tools, the hissing-noise of steel-gads, and fire burning in furnaces, &c. These sounds, I should suppose, might be occasion'd by the repercussion of the sea-waters into these chinks, but that they are continu'd at low ebb when there is no water at all, as well as at the full tide. Nor was that place, which Clemens Alexandrinus mentions in the seventh book of his *Stromata*, unlike to this. Historians inform us, that in the isle of Britain there is a certain cave at the root of a mountain, and at the top of it a cleft. Now when the wind blows into the cave, and is reverberated therein, they hear at the chink the sound of several cymbals; for the wind being driven back, makes much the greater noise.”

But as to the subterraneous noises above-mentioned, whatsoever might be heard in this island in Giraldus's time; it is certain (notwithstanding many later writers have upon this authority taken it for granted) that at present there are no such sounds perceived here. A learned and ingenious gentleman of this country, upon this occasion writes thus: “ I was my self once upon the island, in company with some inquisitive persons; and we sought over it where such noise might be heard. Upon failure, we consulted the neighbours, and have since ask'd literate and knowing men who liv'd near the island, who all own'd the tradition, but never knew it made out in fact. Either then that old *Acoumenon* is vanish'd, or the place is mistaken.”

“ I shall offer upon this occasion what I think may divert you. You know there is in this channel, a noted point of land, between the Nash-point in this county, and that of St. Govens in Pembroke-shire; call'd in the maps and charts Wormshead-point, for that it appears to the sailors like a worm creeping, with its head erect. From the main land, it stretches a mile or better into the sea and at half-flood, the isthums which joins it to the shore, is overflown; so that it becomes then a small island. Toward the head it sett, or that part which is farthest out in the sea, there is a small cleft or crevice in the ground, into which if you throw a handful of dust or sand, it will be blown up back again into the air. But if you kneel or lie down, and lay your ears to it, you then hear distinctly the deep noise of a prodigious large bellows. The reason is obvious: For the reciprocal motion of the sea, under the arch'd and rocky hollow of this headland, or promontory, makes an inspiration

" inspiration and expiration of the air, through the cleft, and that al-
 " ternately; and consequently the noise, as of a pair of bellows in
 " motion. I have been twice there to observe it, and both times in
 " the Summer-season, and in very calm weather. But I do believe a
 " stormy sea would give not only the forementioned sound, but all
 " the variety of the other noises ascrib'd to Barry; especially if we
 " a little indulge our fancy, as they that make such comparisons ge-
 " nerally do. The same, I doubt not, happens in other places upon the
 " sea-shore, wherever a deep water, and rocky concave, with proper
 " clefts for conveyance, do concur: In Sicily especially, where are
 " moreover fire and sulphur for the bellows to work upon; and chim-
 " neys in those volcanos to carry off the smoak. But now that this
 " Wormshead should be the intended isle of Barry, may seem very un-
 " couth. Here I consider, that Barry is the most remarkable river
 " (next that of Swanly) for trade, in all Gower; and its osium is
 " close by Wormshead, so that whoever sails to the north-east of
 " Wormshead, is said to sail for the river of Barry. Wormshead
 " again is but a late name; but that of Barry immemorial. Now he
 " that had a mind to be critical, might infer, either that Wormshead
 " was of old call'd the island of Barry; or, at least, That before the
 " name of Wormshead was in being, the report concerning these
 " noises might run thus; that near Barry, or as you sail into Barry,
 " there is an island, where there is a cleft in the ground, to which
 " you lay your ear, you will hear such and such noises. And Barry
 " for Barry, is a very easy mistake, &c."

Beyond these islands the shore is continued directly westward, re-
 ceiving only one river; upon which (a little more within the land
 lies Cowbridge, call'd by the Britains, from the stone-bridge, *by Bon-
 vaen*. It is a market-town, and the second of those three which the
 Conqueror Fitz-Haimon reserv'd for himself. In regard Antoninus
 places the city Bovium (which is also corruptly call'd Bomium) in
 this tract, and at this distance from Isca, I flatter'd my self once with
 an imagination that this must be Bovium. But seeing that at three
 miles distance from this town we find Boverton, which agrees exactly
 with Bovium, I could not, without injury to truth, seek for Bovium
 elsewhere. Nor is it a new thing, that places should receive their
 names from oxen; as we find by the Thracian bosphorus, the bovia-
 num of the Samnites, and bauli in Italy, so called *quasi boalia*, if we
 may credit Symmachus. But let this one argument serve for all: Fif-
 teen miles from Bovium, Antoninus, using also a Latin name, has
 place

placed Nidum, which our antiquaries have a long time search'd for in vain, and yet at the same distance we find Neath in British *Nedba* a town of considerable note, retaining still its ancient name almost entire. Moreover, we may observe here, at Lantwit or St. Ilrut's, a village adjoining, the foundations of many buildings; and formerly it had several streets.

Not far from Boverton, almost in the very creek or winding of the shore, stands St. Donat's castle, the habitation of the ancient and noble family of the Stradlings; near which have been dug-up several ancient Roman coins, but especially of the thirty tyrants, and some of Æmilianus and Marius, which are very scarce. A little above this, the river Ogmor makes its way into the sea: It falls from mountains, and runs by Koetieu castle, the seat formerly of the Turbervils, afterwards of the Gamages, and after that (in right of his lady) of Sir Robert Sidney viscount L'Isle; and also by Ogmor-castle, which devolv'd from the family of the Londons, to the dutchy of Lancaster.

" There is a remarkable spring within a few miles of this place
 " (as the learned Sir John Stradling told me by a letter) at a place
 " call'd Newtown, a small village on the west-side of the river Og-
 " mor, in a sandy plain about a hundred paces from the Severn shore.
 " The water of it is not the clearest, but pure enough and fit for use: It
 " never runs over; and such as would make use of it, must go down
 " some steps. At full sea, in Summer-time, you can scarce take up
 " any water in a dish; but immediately when it ebbs, you may
 " raise what quantity you please. The same inconstancy remains al-
 " so in the Winter; but is not so apparent by reason of the adven-
 " titious water, as well from frequent showers as subterraneous pas-
 " sages. This, several of the inhabitants, who were persons of cre-
 " dit, had assur'd me of. However, being somewhat suspicious of
 " common fame, as finding it often erroneous, I lately made one or
 " two journeys to this sacred spring; for I had then some thoughts
 " of communicating this to you. Being come thither, and staying
 " about the third part of an hour (whilst the Severn flow'd, and
 " none came to take up water) I observ'd that it sunk about three
 " inches. Having left it, and returning not long after, I found the
 " water risen above a foot. The diameter of the well may be about
 " six foot. Concerning which my muse dictates these few lines;

*Te Nova-Villa fremens, odioso murmure nympba
Inclamant Sabrina : Soloque inimica propinquo,
Evomit infestas ructu violenter arenas.
Danna pari sentit vicinia sorte : Sed illa
Fenticulum causata tuum. Quem virgo, legendo
Litus ad amplexus vocitat : Latet ille vocatus
Autro, & luctatur contra. Namque æstus utrique est.
Continuo motu refluus, tamen ordine despar.
Nympba fluit propius : Fons defluit. Illa recedit.
Iste redit. Sic livor inest & pugna perennis.*

Thee, Newtown, Severn's noisy nymph pursues,
While unrestrain'd th' impetuous torrent flows.
Her conqu'ring surges waste thy hated land,
And neighbouring fields are burden'd with the sand.
But all the fault is on thy fountain laid,
Thy fountain courted by the amorous maid.
Him, as she passeth on, with eager noise
She calls, in vain she calls, to mutual joys.
He flies as fast, and scorns the proffer'd love,
(For both with tides, and both with different move.)
The nymph advanceth, strait the fountain's gone,
The nymph retreats, and he returns as soon.
Thus eager love still boils the restless stream,
And thus the cruel spring still scorns the virgin's flame.

Polybius takes notice of such a fountain at Cadiz, and gives us this reason for it, *viz.* That the air being deprived of its usual vent, returns inwards; by which means the veins of the spring being stop'd, the water is kept back: And so, on the other hand, the water leaving the shore, those veins or natural aqueducts are freed from all obstruction; so that the water springs plentifully.

From hence, coasting along the shore, you come to Kynfyg, the castle heretofore of the Fitz-Haimon, and Morgan, once a monastery, founded by William earl of Gloucester, and now the seat of the noble family of the Maunsels, knights and baronets; of whom, Sir Thomas Maunsel was advanced by her majesty queen Anne to the honour of baron Maunsel of this place.

On a mountain call'd Mynydd Gelhi Onnen, in the parish of Lhan Gyvelach, I observ'd a monument which stood lately in the midst of a
heap

heap of stones, but is now thrown down and broken in three or four pieces; differing from all I have seen elsewhere. It was a flat stone, about three inches thick, two foot broad at bottom, and about five in height. The top of it is form'd as round as a wheel, and thence to the basis it becomes gradually broader. On one side it is carv'd with some art, but much more labour. The round head is adorn'd with a kind of flourishing cross, like a garden-knot: Below that, there is a man's face and hands on each side; and thence, almost to the bottom, neat Fretwork; beneath which there are two feet, but as rude and ill-proportion'd (as are also the face and hands) as some Egyptian hieroglyphick.

Not far from hence, within the same parish, is Krrn Lechart, a monument that gives denomination to the mountain on which it is erected. It is a circle of rude stones, which are somewhat of a flat form, such as we call Lhecheu, disorderly pitch'd in the ground, of about seventeen or eighteen yards diameter; the highest of which now standing, is not above a yard in height. It has but one entry into it, which is about four foot wide; and in the center of the area is such a cell, or hut, as is seen in several places of Wales, and call'd Kist vaen; one of which is describ'd in Brecknockshire, by the name of St. Iltyt's cell. This at Karn Lhechart is about six foot in length, and four foot wide, and has no top-stone now for a cover; but a very large one lies by, which seems to have split off. Y Gist vaen on a mountain call'd Mynyddhy Drymmeu by Neath, seems to have been also a monument of this kind, but much less; and to differ from it, in that the circle about it was mason-work, as I was inform'd by a gentleman who had often seen it whilst it stood; for at present there is nothing of it remaining. But these kinds of monuments, which some ascribe to the Danes, and others suppose to have been erected by the Britains before the Roman conquest, we shall have occasion to speak of more fully hereafter. Another monument there is, on a mountain call'd Kevn bryn, in Gower, which may challenge a place also among such unaccountable antiquities, as are beyond the reach of history; and of which the same worthy person that sent me his conjecture concerning the subterraneous noise in Barry island, gives the following account:

“As to the stones you mention, they are to be seen upon a jutting
 “at the north-west of Kevn bryn, the most noted hill in Gower.
 “They are put together by labour enough, but no great art, into a
 “pile; and their fashion and posture is this: There is a vast un-
 “wrought

“ wrought stone (probably about twenty tun weight) supported by six
 “ or seven others that are not above four foot high, and these are
 “ set in a circle, some one end, and some edge-wise, or side-long, to
 “ bear the great one up: They are all of them of the lapis molaris
 “ kind, which is the natural stone of the mountain. The great one
 “ is much diminish’d of what it has been in bulk, as having five tuns
 “ or more (by report) broke off it to make mill-stones; so that I guess
 “ the stone originally to have been between twenty-five and thirty
 “ tuns in weight. The carriage, rearing, and placing of this massy
 “ rock, is plainly an effect of human industry and art; but the pul-
 “ leys and levers, the force and skill by which it was done, are not so
 “ easily imagin’d. The common people call it Arthur’s stone; by a
 “ lift of vulgar imagination attributing to that hero an extravagant
 “ size and strength. Under it is a well, which (as the neighbourhood
 “ tell me) has a flux and reflux with the sea; of the truth whereof I
 “ cannot as yet satisfy you, &c.” There are divers monuments of
 this kind in Wales, some of which we shall take notice of in other
 countries. In Anglesey (where there are many of them) as also in some
 other places, they are call’d Krom-lecheu; a name deriv’d from Krwin,
 which signifies crooked or inclining; and llech a flat stone: But of the
 name, more hereafter. It is generally suppos’d, they were places of
 burial: but I have not yet learn’d that ever any bones or urns were
 found by digging under any of them.

From Margan the shore runs north-east, by Aber-Avon, a small
 market-town at the mouth of the river Avon (whence it takes its
 name,) to Neath, a river infamous for quick-sands; upon which stands
 an ancient town of the same name, in Antonine’s Itinerary call’d Ni-
 dum; which, when Fitz-Haimon subdu’d this country, fell in the di-
 vision to Richard Granvil; who having built a monastery under the
 town, and consecrated his dividend to God and the Monks, return’d
 to a very plentiful estate he had in England.

All the country from Neath to the river Lochor, which is the west-
 ern limit of this county, is call’d by us Gower, by the Britains Gwyr,
 and by Ninnius Guhir: Where (as he tells us) the sons of Keian, a
 Scot, seated and distributed themselves, till they were driven out by
 Kynedhav, a British prince. In the reign of king Henry I. Henry
 earl of Warwick subdu’d this country of Gower, which afterwards, by
 agreement betwixt Thomas earl of Warwick, and King Henry II. de-
 volv’d to the crown. But king John bestow’d it on William de Breos,
 to be held by service of one knight, for all service; and his heirs suc-
 cessively

cessively held it, till the time of Edward II. For at that time William de Breos having sold it to several persons, that he might ingratiate himself with the king, deluded all others, and put Hugh Spenser in possession of it. And that, among others, was the cause why the nobles became so exasperated against the Spensers, and so unadvisedly quitted their allegiance to the king. It is now divided into east and west Gowerland. In east Gowerland, the most noted town is Sweinsey, so call'd by the English from porpoises or sea-hogs, and by the Britains Aber-Tawi (from the river Tawi, which runs by it;) which was fortified by Henry earl of Warwick. But a more ancient place than this is that upon the river Loghor, which Antoninus calls Leucarum, and is at this day (retaining its ancient name) call'd Loghor, in British Kas-Lychwr. Where, about the time of king Henry I's death, Howel ap Mredydh, with a band of mountaneers, surpriz'd and slew several Englishmen of quality. Beneath this, lies west Gower, which (the sea making creeks on each side) is become a peninsula; a place more noted for corn, than for towns, and celebrated heretofore for St. Kyndhav, who led here a solitary life; concerning whom, such as desire a farther account, may consult our Capgrave, who has sufficiently extoll'd his miracles.

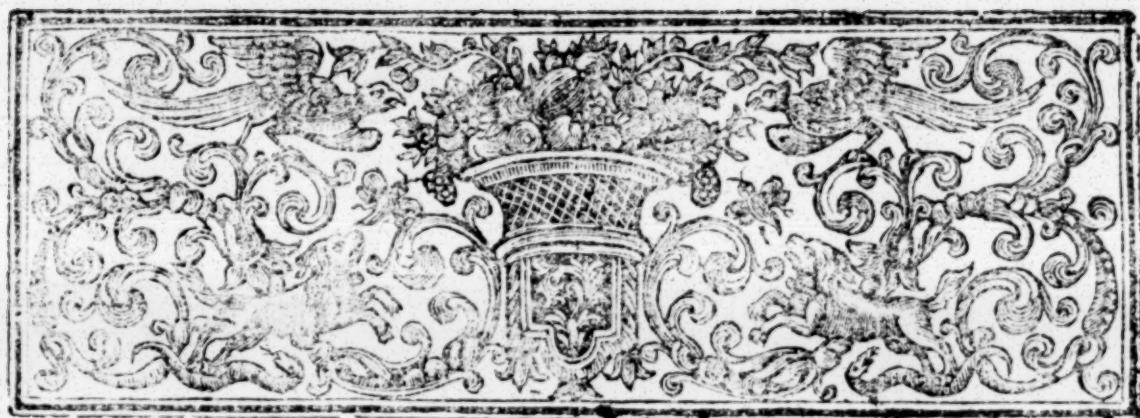
From the very first conquest of this country, the Clares and Spensers earls of Gloucester, (who were lineally descended from Fitz-Hamon) were lords of it. Afterwards, the Beauchamps, and one or two of the Nevils; and by a daughter of Nevil (descended also from the Spensers) it came to Richard the third king of England; and he being slain, it devolv'd to king Henry VII. who granted it to his uncle Gaffer duke of Bedford. He dying without issue, the king resum'd it into his own hands, and left it to his son Henry VIII. whose son Edward VI. sold most part of it to William Herbert, whom he had created earl of Pembroke, and baron of Caerdiffe.

Of the off-spring of the twelve knights before-mention'd, there remain now only in this county the Stradlings, a family very eminent for their many noble ancestors; with the Turbervils, and some of the Flemmings, whereof the chiefest dwells at Flemmingstone, call'd now corruptly from them Flemston. But in England there remain the lord St. John of Bletso, the Granvils in Devonshire, and the Siwards (as I am inform'd) in Somersetshire. The issue-male of all the rest is long since extinct, and their lands by daughters pass'd over to other families.

Edward Somerset lord Herbert of Chepstow, Ragland and Gower, obtained of king Charles I. the title of earl of Glamorgan, his father the lord marquiss of Worcester being then alive ; the succession of which noble family may be seen at the end of Worcestershire.

. Parishes in this county 118.





D I M E T Æ.



THE remainder of this tract which is extended westward, and is call'd by the English West-Wales, comprehending Caermarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Cardiganshire, was thought by Pliny to have been inhabited by the Silures. But Ptolemy, to whom Britain was better known, placed another nation here, whom he call'd Dimetæ and Demetæ. Moreover, both Gildas and Nannius us'd the word Demetia to signify this country; whence the Britains call it at this day Dyved, changing the M into V, according to the custom of that language.

If it would not be thought a strain'd piece of curiosity, I should be apt to derive this name Demetæ, from the words Deheu-meath, which signify the southern plain; as all this south-part of Wales has been call'd Deheu-barth, *i. e.* the southern-part. And I find that elsewhere, the inhabitants of a campaign country in Britain were call'd by the Britains themselves Meata. Nor does the situation of this country
con-

contradict that signification; for when you take a prospect of it, the hills decline gently and gradually into a plain. But seeing it was the custom among the Romans to retain such names of the places they conquer'd, as the ancient natives made use of, adding only a Latin termination; it may seem more probable that Dimetia was made out of the British name Dyved, than the contrary.

CAERMARTHENS HIRE.



THE county of Kaer-Vyrdhin, call'd by the English Caermarthenshire, is a country sufficiently supply'd with corn, and very well stock'd with cattle; and in divers places affords plenty of coal. It is bounded on the east with Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire, on the west with Pembrokehire, on the north it is divided from Cardiganshire by the river Teivi, and on the south it is bounded with the main ocean, which encroaches on the land here, with such a vast bay, as if this country out of fear had withdrawn itself. In this bay, Kydweli first offers itself, the territory whereof was possess'd for some time by the sons of Keinas a Scot, till they were driven out by Kynedhav, a British prince. But now it is esteem'd part of the inheritance of the dutchy of Lancaster, by the heirs of Maurice of London, or de Londres, who removing out of Glamorganshire, made himself master of it after a tedious war, and fortify'd old Kydweli with walls, and a castle now decay'd with age. For the inhabitants passing over the river of Gwen-draeth-vechan, built new Kydweli, being invited thither by the convenience of a harbour, which yet at present is of no great use, being choaked with shelves. When Maurice of London invaded these territories, Gwenlhian, the wife

wife of prince Gryffydd, a woman of invincible courage (endeavouring to restore her husband's state) bravely engaged him in a pitched battle. But she with her son Morgan, and divers other noblemen (as Giraldus informs us) were slain in the field.

By Hawis the daughter and heir of Thomas de Londres, this fair inheritance, with the title of lord of Ogmore and Kydweli, descended to Patrick Chaworth, and, by a daughter of his son Patrick, to Henry earl of Lancaster. The heirs of Maurice de Londres (as we read in an old Inquisition) were oblig'd by this tenure, in case the king, or his chief justice should lead an army into these parts of Kydweli, to conduct the said army, with their banners, and all their forces, through the midst of the country of Neath to Lloch.

A few miles below Kydweli, the river Towy, which Ptolemy call'd Tobius, is receiv'd into the ocean; having pass'd the length of this county from north to south. First, by Lhan ym Ddyvri (so call'd, as is suppos'd, from the confluence of rivers) which, out of malice to the English, was long since demolish'd by Howel ap Rhys. Afterwards, by Dinevor-castle, the royal seat of the princes of south-wales whilst they flourish'd; situated aloft on the top of a hill. And at last, by Caer-mardhin, which the Britains themselves call Kaer-Myddin, ptolemy Maridunum, and antoninus Muridunum, who continues not his journeys any farther than this place, and has here been misused by the negligence of the copyists. For they have carelessly confounded two journeys: the one from Galena to Iſca; the other from Maridunum to Viroconovium. This is the chief town of the county, pleasantly seated for meadows and woods, and is a place venerable for its antiquity; excellently fortify'd (saith Giraldus) with brick-walls, partly yet standing, on the noble river of Towy: which is navigable with ships of small burden; though there is a bed of sand before the mouth of it. Here, our Merlin, the British Tages, was born: for as Tages was reported to have been the son of a genius, and to have taught the italians sooth-saying; so our Merlin, who was said to have been the son of an Incubus, devis'd Prophecies, or rather mere phantastical dreams, for our Britains. Inſomuch, that in this Island he has the reputation of an eminent prophet, amongst the ignorant common people. (This Merlin, or Merdhin Emrys (for so the British writers call him) flourish'd Anno 480. The first of our historians that mentions him is Ninnius, who supposes he was called Embreys Gleutic. He says nothing of his being the son of an Incubus; but on the contrary tells us expressly, his mother was afraid of owning the father, lest she should be

sentenc'd to die for it; but that the boy confess'd to king Vortigern, that his father was by nation a Roman. The same author informs us, that king Vortigern's messengers found him *ad campum Electi in regione que vocatur Glevising*, i. e. at the field of Electus, in the county call'd Glevising; which whether it were at this town or county, or in some other place, seems very questionable; no places (that I can hear of) being known by such names at present. All the monkish writers that mention him, make him either a prophet or Magician. But H. Lhwyd a judicious author, and very conversant in British antiquities, informs us, that he was a man of extraordinary learning and prudence for the time he lived in; and that for some skill in the mathematicks, many fables were invented of him by the vulgar; which being afterwards put in writing, were handed down to posterity.

Soon after the Normans entered Wales, this town fell into their possession, but under whose conduct I know not; and for a long time it encountered many difficulties: having been often besieged, and twice burnt; first by Gryffyth ep Rhys, and afterwards by Rhys the said Gryffyth's brother. At which time, Henry Turbervil, an Englishman, relieved the castle, and cut down the bridge. But the walls and castle being afterwards repaired by Gilbert de Clare, it was freed from those miseries; so that being thus secured, it bore the storms of war much easier afterwards. The princes of Wales eldest sons of the kings of England, settled here their Chancery and Exchequer for South-Wales. Opposite to this city, towards the east, lies Cantrevbychan, which signifies the lesser hundred (for the Britains call such a portion of a country as contains one hundred villages, Kantrev) where may be seen the ruins of Kastelh Karreg, which was seated on a steep, and on all sides inaccessible rock; and likewise several vast caverns, now all covered with green turf (where, in time of war, such as were unfit for arms, are thought by some to have secured themselves;) a notable fountain also, which (as Giraldus writes) ebbing and flowing twice in twenty four hours, imitates the sea-tides. Those Caverns are supposed, by inquisitive persons who have often viewed them, rather to have been Copper-mines of the Romans. And indeed, seeing it is evident (from some antiquities found there) that Kear-Gai in Meirionydh-shire was a Roman town or fort; and that the place where these caves are, is also call Kaio; I am apt to infer from the name, that this place must have been likewise well known to the Romans. And that I may note this by the way, I suspect most names of places in Wales, that end in i or o, such as *Bod-Vari*, *Kevn Korwoyni*, *Kaer-Gay*;

Gai; *Lkannio*, *Keidio*, and *Kaio*, to be Roman names; these terminations being not so agreeable with the idiotism of the British.

To the north is extended *Cantrev Mawr*, or the great Hundred; a safe retreat heretofore for the Britains, as being very woody and rocky, and full of uncouth ways, by reason of the windings of the hills. On the south, the castles of *Talcharn* and *Ihan Stephan* stand on the sea-rocks, and are ample testimonies of warlike prowess, as well in the English as Britains.

Below *Talcharn*, the river *Taff* is discharged into the sea: on the bank of which river, was famous heretofore *Ty gwyn ar Dav*, which signifies, the white house on the river *Taff*; so called, because it was built of white hazel-rods for a summer-house. I cannot conjecture, what might be the original signification of this word *Tav*: but it may be worth our observation, that the most noted rivers in South-Wales seem to have been thence denominated: for besides that there are three or four rivers of that name; the first syllable also in *Tawy*, *Towy*, *Teivi*, and *Dyvi*, seems to me but so many various pronunciations of it: and for the latter syllable, I have elsewhere offered my conjecture, that it only denotes a River, or perhaps Water. Nor would it seem to me very absurd, if any should derive the name of the river *Thames* from the same original. For since we find it pretty evident, that the Romans changed *Dyved* (the ancient name of this country) into *Dimeria*, and *Kynedhav* (a man's name) into *Cunotamus*, and also that in many words where the Latins use an *M*, the Britains have an *V*, as *Firmus*, *Firv*; *Terminus*, *Tervin*; *Amnis*, *Avon*; *Lima*, *Lhiv*; &c. it seems not likely (considering we find the word *Tav*, usual in the names of our rivers) that the Britains might call that river *Tav*, *Tavwy*, or *Tavwys*, before the Roman Conquest; which they afterwards called *Tamesis*. And this seems to be more than a mere conjecture, when we consider further, that the word *Tav* was, according to the old British Orthography, written *Tam*; which shews, not only that *Tav* or *Taff* in Glamorganshire, &c. is originally the same word with *Thame* or *Thames*, but also that the Greek *Tamos* in *Potamos* is probably no other.

Here at the foresaid *Ty gwyn ar Dav*, in the year of our Lord 914, *Howel*, surnam'd the Good, prince of Wales, in a full assembly (there being besides Laymen, one hundred and forty ecclesiasticks) abrogated the laws of his ancestors, and gave a body of new laws to his people, as the preface before those laws testifies; and yet in an ancient MS. copy of them, to be seen in Jesus-College library in Oxford,

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fairly writ on parchment, the preface does not inform us, that Howell Dha abrogated all the laws of his ancestors; but expressly tells us, that according to the advice of his council, some of the ancient laws he retained, others he corrected, and some he quite disannull'd, appointing others in their stead.

In the same place, a small monastery was built afterwards, call'd Whitland-Abbey. Not far from whence is Kilmaen Lhwyd, where some country-men lately discovered an earthen vessel, that contain'd a considerable quantity of Roman coins of embas'd silver; from the time of Commodus, who was the first of the Roman emperors that embas'd their silver, to the fifth tribuneship of Gordian the third; which falls in with the year of Christ 243. Amongst these, were Helvius Pertinax, Marcus Opellius, Antoninus, Diadumenianus, Julius Verus, Maximus the son of Maximinus, Cælius Balbinus, Clodius Puppienus, Aquilia Severa the wife of Elagabalus, and Sall. Barbia Orbiana: which (as being very rare) were coins of considerable value among antiquaries.

It remains now, that I give some account of Newcastle (seated on the bank of the river Teivi, which divides this county from Cardiganshire) for so they now call it, because it was repaired by Rhys ap Thomas, a stout warrior, who assisted Henry the seventh in gaining his Kingdom, and was by him deservedly created knight of the garter, whereas formerly it is said by some to have been called Elmlin. Which name, if the English gave it from Elm-trees; their conjecture is not to be despised, who are of opinion, that it was the Loventium of the Dimetæ, mentioned by Ptolemy: for an Elm is called in British Lhwyven. But it makes against this conjecture, that the old British name of Emlin, is Dinas Emlin; the most obvious interpretation whereof (tho' I shall not much contend for it) is Urbs Æmiliani, which seems to have no other original, than that a person so nam'd was once the Lord or Proprietor of it. The name (which was common among the Britains anciently, and is partly yet retained) was Roman and is the same with the Æmilinus mentioned in Denbighshire, which the inscription calls Aimilini. I cannot find, that ever it was called Elmlin, either in Welsh or English; and therefore dare not subscribe to the foregoing conjecture, that the Lovantium of the Dimetæ, mentioned by Ptolemy, was at this place; nor yet that it perish'd in the lake Lhyn Savadhan, in Brecknockshire. Indeed the footsteps of several towns and forts that flourished in the time of the Romans, are now so obscure and undiscernible, that we are not to wonder

wonder if the conjectures of learned and judicious men about their situation, prove sometimes erroneous. I have lately observed in Cardiganshire, some tokens of a Roman fort, which I suspect to have been the Lovatinum, or Lovantium of Ptolemy; for which I shall take the liberty of offering my arguments, when we come into that county.

In the 19th of king Charles the first, Richard earl of Carbery in Ireland, was advanced to the dignity of a baron of this realm, by the title of Lord Vaughan of Emlyn.

This country abounds with ancient forts, camps, and tumuli or barrows, which we have not room here to take notice of. I shall therefore mention only one barrow, called Krig y Dyrrn, in the parish of Trelech, which seems particularly remarkable. The circumference of it at bottom may be about sixty paces, the height about six yards. It rises with an easy ascent, and is hollow on the top, gently inclining from the circumference to the center. This barrow is not a mount of earth, as others generally are; but seems to have been such a heap of stones, as are called in Wales Kainedheu (whereof the Reader may see some account in Radnorshire) covered with Turf. At the center of the cavity on the top, we find a vast rude Lhech, or flat stone, somewhat of an oval form, about three yards in length, five foot over where broadest, and about ten or twelve inches thick. A Gentleman, to satisfy my curiosity, having employ'd some Labourers to search under it, found it, after removing much stone, to be the covering of such a barbarous monument, as we call Kist-vaca, or Stone-chest; which was about four foot and a half in length, and about three foot broad, but somewhat narrower at the east than west-end. It is made up of seven stones, viz. the covering stone, already mentioned, and two side-stones, one at each end, and one behind each of these for the better securing or bolstering of them; all equally rude, and about the same thickness; the two last excepted, which are considerably thicker. They found, as well within the chest as without, some rude pieces of brick (or stones burnt like them) and free-stone, some of which were wrought. They observed also some pieces of bones, but such as they supposed to have been only brought in by Foxes; but, not sinking to the bottom of the chest, we know not what else it may afford.

Krig y Dyrrn (the name of this Tumulus) is now scarce intelligible; but if a conjecture may be allowed, I should be apt to interpret it King's Barrow. I am sensible that even such as are well acquainted with the Welsh tongue, may at first view think this a groundless opinion,

nion, and wonder what I aim at ; but when they consider that the common word Teyrnas, which signifies a Kingdom, is only a derivative from the old word Teyrn (which was originally the same with Tyrannus, and signify'd a King or Prince ;) they will perhaps acknowledge it not altogether improbable. And considering the rudeness of the monument described, and yet the labour and strength required in erecting it, I am apt to suspect it the barrow of some British prince, who might live probably before the Roman conquest. For seeing it is much too barbarous to be supposed Roman, and that we do not find in history that the Saxons were ever concerned here, or the Danes any farther than in plundering the sea-coasts ; it seems necessary to conclude it British. That it was a Royal Sepulchre I am apt to infer, partly from the signification of the name ; which being not understood in these ages, could not therefore be any novel invention of the vulgar ; and partly for that (as I hinted already) more labour and strength was required here than we can suppose to be allowed to persons of inferior quality. That it is older than christianity, there is no room to doubt ; but that it was before the Roman conquest, is only my conjecture, supposing that after the Britains were reduced by the Romans, they had none whom they could call Teyrn or King, whose corps or ashes might be repositied here.

Gwal y Vilast or Bwrddh Arthur, in Lhan Boudy parish, is a monument in some respect like that which we have describ'd at this Barrow, viz a rude stone about ten yards in circumference, and above three foot thick, supported by four pillars, which are about two foot and a half in height.

But Buarth Arthur or Meineu Gwyr, on a mountain near Kill y maen lhwyd, is one of that kind of circular stone-monuments which our English historians ascribe to the Danes. The diameter of the circle is about twenty yards. The stones are as rude as may be, and pitch'd on end at uncertain distances from each other, some at three or four foot, but others about two yards ; and are also of several heights some being about three or four foot high, and others five or six. There are now standing here, fifteen of them ; but there seem to be seven or eight carry'd off. The entry into it for about the space of three yards, is guarded on each side with stones much lower and less than those of the circle, and pitch'd so close as to be contiguous. And over-against this avenue, at the distance of about two hundred paces, there stand on end three other large, rude stones, which I therefore note particularly, because there are also four or five stones erected at
such

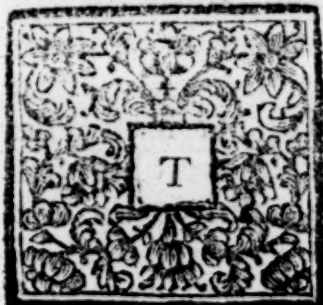
such a distance from that circular monument which they call King's-stones near Little Rolrich in Oxfordshire. As for the name of Buarth Arthur, it is only a nick-name of the vulgar, whose humour it is, though not so much (as some have imagined) out of ignorance and credulity, as a kind of rustick diversion, to dedicate many unaccountable monuments to the memory of that hero; calling some stones of several tun weight his coits, others his tables, chairs, &c. But *Meineu gwyr* is so old a name, that it seems scarce intelligible. *Meineu* is indeed our common word for large stones: but *gwyr* in the present British signifies only crooked, which is scarce applicable to these stones unless we should suppose them to be so denominated, because some of them are not at present directly upright, but a little inclining. It may be, such as take these circular monuments for Druid-Temples may imagine them so call'd from bowing, as having been places of worship. For my part, I leave every man to his conjecture; and shall only add, that near Capel Kirig in Caernarvonshire, there is a stone pitched on end call'd also *Maengwyr*; which perhaps is the only stone now remaining, of such a circular monument as this. At least-wise it has such a *Kistvaen* by it (but much less) as that which we observed in the midst of the monument, described in Glamorganshire, by the name of *Karn Lhechart*,

Seeing we find it not recorded, which of the Normans first extorted this country out of the hands of the princes of Wales; order requires that we now proceed to the description of Pembroke-shire, having first observed, that of late, Carmarthen hath given the title of marquis to Thomas Osborn, earl of Danby; afterwards advanced to the more honourable title of duke of Leeds; which honours are now enjoy'd by his son.

This county has 87 parishes.

PEM-

PENBROKSHIRE.



THE sea, now winding it self to the south, and by a vast compass and several creeks rendering the shore very uneven, beats on all sides upon the county of Pembroke (commonly called Pembroke-shire, and in ancient records the legal county of Pembroke, and by some West-Wales) except on the east, where it is bounded with Caer-mardin-shire, and the north, where it borders on Cardiganshire.

It is a fertile country for corn, affords plenty of marl and such like things to fatten and enrich the land, as also of coal for fuel; and is very well stock'd with cattel. This country (saith Giraldus) affords plenty of wheat, and is well served with sea-fish and imported wine; and (which exceeds all other advantages) by its nearness to Ireland, enjoys a wholesom air.

First, on the southern coast, Tenbigh a neat town, strongly wall'd, beholds the sea from a dry rock; a place much noted for its harbour and for plenty of fish (whence in British it is called Dinbech y Pyskod;) and governed by a Mayor and a Bailiff. To the west of this place, are seen on the shore the small ruins of Manober Castle, called by Giraldus Pyrrhus's Mansion; in whose time (as he himself informs us) it was adorned with stately towers and bulwarks, having on the west-side a spacious haven; and under the walls, to the north and north-west, an excellent fish-pond, remarkable as well for its neatness, as the depth of its water. The shore being continued some few miles from hence, and at length drawing-in it self, the sea on both sides comes a great way into the laod, and makes that port which the English

lish call Milford-haven ; than which there is none in Europe, either more spacious or secure ; so many creeks and harbours hath it on all sides, which cut the banks like so many fibres ; and, to use the poet's words,

*Hic exarmatum terris cingentibus æquor
Clanditur, & placidam discit servare quietem.*

Here circling banks the furious winds controul,
And peaceful waves with gentle murmurs rowl,

For it contains sixteen creeks, five bays, and thirteen roads, distinguished by their several names. Nor is this haven more celebrated for these advantages, than for Henry the seventh of happy memory landing here ; who from this place gave England (at that time languishing with civil wars) the first signal of better times approaching.

At the innermost and eastern bay of this haven, a long cape (saith Giraldus) which is extended from Milver-dike with a forked head, shews the principal town of this province, and the metropolis of Dimetia, seated on a rocky oblong promontory, in the most pleasant country of all Wales ; called by the Britains Penvro, which signifies the Cape or Sea-Promontory, and thence in English, Penbroke. Arnulph de Montgomery, brother to Robert earl of Shrewsbury, built this castle in the time of king Henry the first ; but very meanly, with stakes only and green turf. Which, upon his return afterwards into England, he delivered to Girald of Windsor, a prudent man, his constable and lieutenant-general, who with a small garrison was presently besieged therein, by all the forces of South-Wales. But Giraldus and his party made such resistance (tho' more with courage, than strength) that they were forced to retire, without success. Afterwards, this Giraldus fortify'd both town and castle ; from whence he annoy'd and insulted the neighbouring countries a great way round. And for the better settlement of himself and his friends in this country, he marry'd Nest, the sister of prince Gryffydd, by whom he had a noble off-spring ; and by their means (saith Giraldus, who was descended from him) not only the maritim parts of South-Wales were retained by the English, but also the walls of Ireland reduced. For all those noble families in Ireland called Giralds, Giraldines,, and Fitz-Giralds, are descended from him. In regard of the tenure of this

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castle

castle and town, and the castle and town of Tinbigh, and of the Grange of King's Wood, the commot of Croytarath, and mancur of Castle-martin and Tregoir, Reginald Grey, at the coronation of Henry the fourth, claimed the honour of bearing the second sword, but in vain; for it was answered, that at that time those castles and farms were in the king's hands, as is also at this day the town of Penbroke, which is a Corporation, and is governed by a Mayor and two Bailiffs.

On another bay of this haven, we find Carew-castle, which gave both name and original to the illustrious family of Carew, who affirm themselves to have been call'd at first de Montgomery, and that they are descended from that Arnulph de Montgomery already mentioned.

Two rivers are discharged into this haven, almost in the same channel, called in the British tongue Cledheu, which in English signifies a sword, whence they call it Aber-dau-Gledheu, i. e. the haven of two swords. Hard by the most easterly of them, standeth Slebach, once a Commandery of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, which, with other lands, Wizo, and his son Walter settled upon that holy order; that they might serve, as the champions of Christ, in order to recover the Holy-land.

That part of the country which lies beyond the haven, and is watered only with these two rivers, is called by the Britains Rhos: a name, derived from the situation; for it is a large green plain. This part is inhabited by Flemings, who settled here by the permission of king Henry the first; when the sea, making breaches in the fences, had drowned a considerable part of the low countreys. They are at this day distinguished from the Welsh by their speech and customs: and they speak a language so much English (which indeed has a great affinity with the Dutch) that this small country of theirs is call'd by the Britains Little England beyond Wales. This (saith Giraldus) is a stout and resolute nation, and very troublesome to the Welsh by their frequent skirmishes: a people excellently skill'd in the business of cloathing and merchandize, and always ready to increase their stock at any pains or hazard, by sea and land. A most puissant nation, and equally prepared, as time and place shall require, either for the sword or the plow. And to add one thing more, a nation most devoted to the kings of England, and faithful to the English; and which in the time of Giraldus, understood soothsaying, or the inspection of the entrails of beasts, even to admiration. Moreover, the Flemings-
way,

way, which was a work of theirs (as they are a people exceeding industrious) is here extended through a long tract of ground. The Welsh, endeavouring to regain their old country, have often set upon these Flemings with all their power, and have ravaged and spoiled their borders; but they have always been ready, with great courage, to defend their fortunes, their fame, and their lives. Whence William of Malmesbury writes thus of them, and of William Rufus; William Rufus had, generally, but ill fortune against the Welsh; which one may well wonder at, seeing all his attempts elsewhere proved successful. But I am of opinion, that as the unevenness of their country and severity of the climate favoured their rebellion, so it hindered his progress. But king Henry, that now reigns, a man of excellent wisdom, found out an art to frustrate all their inventions, by planting Flemings in their country, to curb and to be a continual guard upon them. And again in the fifth book; king Henry, by many expeditions, endeavoured to reduce the Welsh, who were always prone to rebellion. At last, very advisedly, in order to abate their pride, he transplanted thither all the Flemings that lived in England. For at that time there were many of them come over on account of their relation to his mother, by their father's side; insomuch that they were burdensome to the Kingdom: wherefore, he thrust them all into Ros, a province of Wales, as into a common-shore, as well to rid the kingdom of them as to curb the obstinacy of his enemies. To this we may add what Dr. Powel hath delivered upon this occasion, in his history of Wales.

In the year 1217. prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth march'd to Dyved, and being at Kevn Kynwarchan, the Flemings sent to him to desire a peace; but the prince would not grant them their request. Then young Rys was the first that passed the river Kledheu, to fight with those of the town of Haverford: whereupon Iorwerth, bishop of St. David's, with all his clergy, came to the prince, to intercede for peace in behalf of the Flemings, which after long debating was thus concluded. First, that all the Inhabitants of Ros, and the land of Penbroke should become the prince's subjects, and ever from thenceforth take him for their liege lord. Secondly, that they should pay him one thousand marks toward his charges, before michaelmas next coming. Thirdly, that for the performance of these, they should deliver forthwith to the prince twenty pledges of the best in all the country, &c. — And again, in the year 1220. Llewelyn prince of Wales led an army to Penbroke against the Flemings, who contrary to their oath and league had taken the castle of Aber Teivi, which castle the

prince destroy'd (putting the garrison to the sword,) and rais'd the castle, and went thence to the land of Gwys, where he rais'd that castle, and burn'd the town. Also he caus'd all Haverford to be burn'd to the castle gates, and destroy'd all Ros and Daugledhau; and they that kept the castle sent to him for truce till May, which was concluded upon conditions, and so he returned home.

On the more westerly of those two rivers called Cledheu, in a very uneven situation, lies Harford-west, call'd by the English formerly Haverford; and by the Britains, Hwlfordh: a town of good account, as well for its neatness, as number of inhabitants. It is also a county of it self, and is govern'd by a Mayor, a Sheriff, and two Bailiffs. There is a tradition, that the earls of Clare fortify'd it on the north-side with walls and a rampire; and we have it recorded, that Richard earl of Clare made Richard Fitz-Tankred, governor of this castle.

Beyond Ros, is a spacious promontory, extended with a huge front into the Irish sea; called by Ptolemy *Ostropitarum*, by the Britains *Pe-bidiog* and *Kantrev Dewi*, and in English St. David's Land. A land (saith Giraldus) both rocky and barren, neither clad with trees, nor divided with rivers, nor adorned with meadows; but exposed continually to the winds and storms: however, it was the retiring-place and nursery of several saints. For Calphurnius a British priest (as some have written, I know not how truly) begat here, in the vale of Rhos, St. Patrick the apostle of Ireland, on his wife Concha, sister of St. Martin of Tours. And Dewi, a most religious bishop, translated the Archiepiscopal See from Kaer-Leion to the the utmost corner of this place, viz. Menew or Menevia, which from him, was afterwards called by the Britains Ty Dewi, i. e. David's house, by the Saxons *Dauyd-Mynster*, and by our modern English, St. David's. For a long time, it had its archbishops; but the plague raging very much in this country, the pall was translated to Doll in Little Britain, which was the end of this archiepiscopal dignity. Notwithstanding which, in later ages, the Britains commenced an action on that account, against the archbishop of Canterbury, metropolitan of England and Wales; but were cast. What kind of place St. David's was heretofore, is hard to guess, seeing it has been so often sack'd by pirates: at present, it is a very mean city, and shews only a fair church consecrated to St. Andrew and St. David. Which having been often demolished, was built in the form we now see it, in the reign of king John, by Peter then bishop thereof and his successors, in the Vale of Rhos (as they call it) under the town. Not far from it, is the bishop's palace; and very fair

fair houses, of the chanter (who is chief next the bishop, for here is no dean) the chancellor, the treasurer, and four archdeacons, who are of the canons (whereof there are twenty-one,) all inclosed with a strong and stately wall.

As to the ancient name of St. David's, there is, not far from it, a place at this day call'd Melin Meneu; wherein is preserved the old denomination. But the original signification of the word Meneu is now lost, and perhaps not to be retriev'd. However, I would recommend it to the curious in Ireland and Scotland (where the names of places agree much with those in Wales) to consider whether it may not signify a frith or narrow sea: for we find the channel betwixt Caernarvonshire and the isle of Anglesey to be call'd Aber-meneu; and there is here also a small fretum, call'd the sound, betwixt this place and the isle of Ramsey; and another place call'd Meney, hard by a frith in Scotland, in the county of Buquhan.

This promontory is so far extended westward, that in a clear day you may see Ireland: and from hence is the shortest passage into it. Pliny erroneously computed Ireland to be thirty miles distant from the country of the Silures; for he thought their country had extended thus far. But we may gather from these words of Giraldus, that this cape was once extended farther into the sea; and that the form of the promontory has been altered. At such time as Henry the (saith he) was in Ireland; by reason of an extraordinary violence of storms, the sandy shores of this coast were laid bare, and the face of the land appeared which had been covered for many ages: also, the trunks of trees, which had been cut down, were seen standing in the midst of the sea, and the strokes of the axe as fresh as if they had been yesterday, with very black earth, and several old blocks like Ebony. So that now it did not appear like the sea-shore, but rather resembled a grove (made by a miraculous metamorphosis, perhaps ever since the time of the Deluge, or else long after, at leastwise very anciently,) as well cut down, as consumed and swallowed up by degrees, by the violence of the sea, continually encroaching upon and washing off the land. And that saying of William Rufus, shews that the lands were not here disjoyn'd by any great sea; who when he beheld Ireland from these rocks, said he could easily make a bridge of ships, whereby he might walk from England into that Kingdom; as we read in Giraldus.

Besides this instance of the sea-sands being washed off, we find the same to have happened about the year 1590. For Mr. George Owen, who

who lived at that time, and is mentioned in this work as learned and ingenious person, gives us the following account of it in a manuscript history of this county.

About twelve or thirteen years since, it happened that the sea-sands at Newgal, which are covered every tide, were by some extraordinary violence of the waves so wash'd off, that there appeared stocks of trees, doubtless in their native places; for they retained manifest signs of the strokes of the axe, at the falling of them. The Sands being wash'd off, in the winter, these butts remain'd to be seen all the summer following, but the next year the same were covered again with the sands. By this it appeareth, that the sea in that place hath intruded upon the land. Moreover, I have been told by the neighbours of Coed Traeth near Tenby, that the like hath been seen also upon those sands, &c. To this an ingenious and inquisitive gentleman of this country, adds, that the same hath been observed of late years near Capel Stinan or St. Justinian's; where were seen not only the roots or stocks of trees, but also divers pieces of squar'd timber. As for roots or stumps, I have often observed them my self at a low ebb, in the sands betwixt Borth and Aber Dyvy in Cardiganshire, but remember nothing of any impression of the ax on them; but on the contrary, that many of them, if not all, were very smooth; and that they appeared, as to substance, more like the cole-black peat or fuel-turf, than timber.

There are excellent and noble Falcons that breed in these rocks, which our king Henry the second (as the same Giraldus informs us) was wont to prefer to all others. And (unless I am deceived by some of that neighbourhood) they are of that kind which they call Peregrins. For, according to the account they give of them, I need not use other words to describe them, than these verses of that excellent poet of our age, Augustus Thuanus Esmerius, in that golden book which he entitles Hieracosophion:

*Depressus capitis vertex, oblongaque toto
Corpore pennarum series, pallentia crura,
Et graciles digiti ac sparsi, naresque rotundæ.*

Flat heads, and feathers laid in curious rows
O'er all their parts, hook'd beaks, and slender claws.

The

The sea with great violence beats upon the land retiring from this promontory ; which is a small region called the lordship of Kemaes. In it, we first meet with Fiscard, seated on a steep rock, and having a convenient harbour for shipping : so called by the English from a fishery there ; and by the Britains, Aber-Gwain, which signifies the mouth of the river Gwain. Next is Newport on the river Nevern, call'd in British Trevdraeth, which signifies the town on the sand. This was built by Martin of Tours, whose posterity made it a corporation, and granted it several privileges, and constituted therein a portrieve and bailiff ; and also built themselves a castle above the town, which was their chief seat. They also founded the monastery of St. Dogmael on the bank of the river Teivi, in a vale encompass'd with hills, from which the village adjoyning (as many other towns did from monasteries) took its beginning. This barony was first taken out of the hands of the Welsh, by Martin of Tours, from whose posterity (called from him Martins) it descended by marriage to the barons de Audeley. They held it a long time ; till, in the reign of king Henry the eighth, William Owen descended from a daughter of Sir Nicholas Martin, after a tedious suit at law for his right, obtained it at last and left it to his son George ; who (being an exquisite antiquary, has informed me, that there are in this barony, besides the three boroughs (Newport, Fishgard, and St. Dogmael) twenty knights-fees and twenty-six parishes.

More inward, on the river Teivi already mentioned, lies Kil Garan ; which shews the ruins of a castle built by Giraldus. But now, being reduced to one street, it is famous for nothing but a plentiful salmon-fishery. For there is a very famous salmon-leap, where the river falls headlong ; and the salmons, making-up from the sea towards the shallows of the river, when they come to this cataract, bend their tails to their mouths (nay sometimes, that they may leap with greater force, hold it in their teeth ;) and then upon disengaging themselves from their circle, with a sudden violence, as when a stick that's bent is reflected, they cast themselves from the water up to a great height, to the admiration of the spectators ; which Ausonius thus describes very elegantly :

*Nec te puniceo rutilantem visore, Salmo,
Transferim, latæ cujus vaga verbera caudæ,
Gurgite de medio summas referuntur in undas.*

Nor thou, red Salmon, shalt be last in fame,
 Whose flirting tail cuts through the deepest stream,
 With one strong jerk the wondring flood deceives,
 And sporting mounts thee to the utmost waves.

There are in this County several such circular stone monuments, as that describ'd in Caer-mardhin-shire by the name of *Meineu gwyr*, and *Karn Lhechart* in Glamorganshire. But the most remarkable, is that which is called *y Gromlech*, near *Pentre Evan* in *Nevern* parish, where are several rude stones, pitched on end, in a circular order; and in the midst of the circle, a vast rude stone placed on several pillars. The diameter of the Area is about fifty foot. The stone supported in the midst of this circle is eighteen foot long, and nine in breadth; and at the one end it is about three foot thick, but thinner at the other. There lies also by it a piece broken off, about ten foot in length, and five in breadth, which seems more than twenty oxen can draw. It is supported by three large rude pillars, about eight foot high; but there are also five others, which are of no use at present, as not being high enough, or duly placed, to bear any weight of the top-stone. Under this stone, the ground is neatly flag'd, considering the rudeness of monuments of this kind. I can say nothing of the number and height of the stones in the circle, not having seen this monument myself; but this account I have of it, is out of Mr. George Owen's manuscript history abovementioned, which was communicated to me by the worshipful John Lewis of Manour Nowen, Esq; And I have also received a description of it from a person, who at my request lately viewed it, not differing materially, from that which we find in the manuscript. The name of this monument seems much of the same signification with *Meineu gwyr*; for *Krwn*, in the feminine gender *Krom*, signifies (as well as *gwyr*) crooked or bending; and *Llech*, a stone of a flat form, more or less, whether natural or artificial. And as we have observed another monument in *Caernarvonshire*, call'd *Llech* or *Maen gwyr*, so we meet with several in *Anglesey*, and some in other parts of *Wales* call'd *Kromlechen*. Now, that these monuments have acquired this name from bowing, as having been places of worship in the time of idolatry, I have no warrant to affirm. However, in order to farther enquiry, we may take notice, that the Irish historians call one of their chiefest idols *Cromcruach*; which remained till St. Patrick's time in the plain of *Moy-sleuct* in *Bresin*. This idol

is describ'd to have been carv'd, with gold and silver, and said to be attended with twelve others much less, all of brass, placed round about him. Crumcruach, at the approach of St. Patrick, fell to the ground, and the lesser idols sunk into the earth up to their necks: The heads whereof (says one of the authors of the life of St. Patrick, cited by Coaignus) are, in perpetual memory of this miracle, still prominent out of the ground, and to be seen at this day. Now altho' we should question the authority of this writer, as to these miracles; yet if we may be allow'd to make any use at all of such histories, we may from hence infer, that this circle of stones (which are here mention'd by the name of idols heads) was, before the planting of Christianity in this country, a place of idolatrous worship. And if that be granted, we shall have little reason to doubt, but that our Krenlech, as well as all other such circular stone-monuments in Britain and Ireland (of which, I presume, there are not less than one hundred yet remaining) were also erected for the same use. But to proceed farther; this relation of idolatous worship at Crumcruach, seems much confirm'd by the general tradition concerning such monuments in Scotland. For upon perusal of some letters on this subject, from the learned and judicious Dr. James Garden, professor of divinity at Aberdeen, to an ingenious gentleman of the Royal Society, (who, for what I can learn, was the first that suspected these circles for temples of the Druids;) I find that in several parts of that kingdom, they are call'd chappels and temples; with this farther tradition, that they were places of worship in the time of Heathenism, and did belong to the Drounich. Which word some interpret the Picts; but Dr. Garden suspects that it might originally denote the Druids: In confirmation whereof, I add, that a village in Anglesey is call'd Tre'r Drw, and interpreted the town of the Druid. Now the diminutive of Drw must be Drwin (whence, perhaps, Kaer Drewin in Merionethshire) and ch is well known to be an usual Irish termination in such nouns.

As for such as contend that all monuments of this kind, were erected by the Danes, as trophies, seats of judicature, places for electing their kings, &c. they will want history to prove, that ever the Danes had any dominion, or indeed the least settlement in Wales or the High-lands of Scotland; where yet such monuments are as frequent, if not more common, than in other places of Britain. For altho' we find it register'd, that they have several times committed depredations on our sea-coasts, destroying some maritim places in the counties of

Glamorgan, Pembroke, Cardigan, and Anglesey, and sometimes also making excursions into the country: Yet we read, that they made no longer stay, than whilst they plunder'd the religious houses, and extorted money and provisions from the people. Now, if it be demanded why they might not, in that short stay, erect these monuments; I have nothing to answer, but that such vast perennial memorials seem rather to be the work of a people settled in their country, than of such roving pyrates, who for their own security must be continually on their guard, and consequently have but small leisure, or reason, for erecting such lasting monuments: And, that we find also these monuments in the mountains of Caernarvonshire, and divers other places, where no history does inform us, nor conjecture suggest, that ever the Danes had been. To which may be added, that if we strictly compare the descriptions of the Danish and Swedish monuments in Saxo Grammaticus, Wormius, and Rudbeckius, with our's in Britain, we shall find considerable difference in the order or structure of them. For (if we may place that here) I find none of them comparable to that magnificent, tho' barbarous monument, on Salisbury Plain; nor any that has such a table in the midst, as the Kromlech here describ'd; whereas several of ours in Wales have it, tho' it be usually much less; and very often this table or a kist-vaen is found without any circle of stones and sometimes on the contrary circles of stones, without any kist-vaen or other stone in the midst. But this we need not so much insist upon: For tho' they should agree exactly, yet are we not therefore oblig'd to acknowledge that our monuments were erected by the Danes. For as one nation since the planting of Christianity hath imitated another, in their churches, chapels, sepulchral monuments, &c. so also in the time of Paganism, the rites and customs in religion must have been deriv'd from one country to another. And I think it probable, should we make diligent enquiry, that there may be monuments of this kind still extant in the less frequented places of Germany, France, and Spain; If not also in Italy. But I fear I have too long detain'd the reader with probabilities, and shall therefore only add, that whatever else hath been the use of these monuments, it is very evident they have been (some of them at least) us'd as burial-places; seeing Mr. Aubrey in that part of his *Monumenta Britannica* which he entitles *Templa Druidum*, gives us some instances of human skeletons, found on the out-side of one or two of them in Wiltshire. And Dr. Garden in his foremention'd letters, affirms, that some persons yet living have dug ashes out of the bottom of a little circle (set about with stones
standing

standing close together) in the center of one of these monuments, near the church of Keig in the shire of Aberdeen ; and adds farther, that in the shire of Inverness, and parish of Enner Allen, there is one of these monuments, call'd the chapel of Tilligorum, alias Capel Mac-mulach, which is full of graves, and was, within the memory of some living, an ordinary place of burial, at least for poor people, and continues to be so at this day for strangers, and children that die without bapti m.

We have not room here to take notice of the other monuments of this kind, which this county affords ; and shall therefore only observe, that in Newport-parish there are five of these tables or altars (that we may distinguish them by some name) placed near each other, which some conjecture to have been once encompass'd with a circle of stone-pillars, for that there are two stones yet standing near th m. But these are nothing comparable in bigness to the Gromlech here described, nor rais'd above three foot high : Nor are they supported with pillars, but stones placed edgewise : and so are rather of that kind of monuments which we call Kiesteu-maen or stone-chests, than Kromlecheu.

I had almost forgot to acquaint the reader, that there is also in Nevern-parish, besides the Gromlech, a monument called commonly Lhech y Drybedh (i. e. Tripodium) and by some the altar-stone. It is of somewhat an oval form, and about twelve yards in circumference, and placed on four stones (whereof one is useless, as not touching it) scarce two foot high. At the south-end, it is about four foot and a half in thickness, but sensibly thinner to the other end, where it exceeds not four inches ; at which end, there is cut such a ductus or conveyance, as might serve to carry off any liquid that should run down ; but to what purpose it was design'd, I shall not pretend to conjecture.

Y maen sigl, or the rocking-stone, deserves also to be mentioned here ; altho' (having never seen it my self) I am not fully satisfy'd, whether it be a monument, or, as Mr. Owen seems to suppose, purely accidental. But by the account I hear of it, I suspect it rather an effect of human industry, than chance. This shaking stone (says he) may be seen on a sea-cliff within half a mile of St. David's ; it is so vast, that I presume it may exceed the draught of an hundred oxen ; and it is altogether rude and unpolish'd. The occasion of the name is, for that being mounted upon divers other stones, about a yard in height ; it is so equally pois'd, that a man may shake it with one

finger, so that five or six men sitting on it, shall perceive themselves mov'd thereby. But I am inform'd, that since this worthy gentleman writ the history of this country, viz. in the late Civil Wars, some of the rebel-soldiers looking upon it as a thing much noted, and therefore superstitious; did, with some difficulty, so alter its position, as to render it almost immoveable. There is also a rocking-stone in Ireland in the county of Dunegall, and parish of Clunmany, no less remarkable than this, call'd by the vulgar Magarl Fhin mhic Cuill, which is describ'd to be of a vast bigness, and somewhat of a pyramidal form, placed on a flat stone, the small end downward, but whether by accident or human industry, I must leave to further enquiry.

In this county, are divers ancient tumuli, or artificial mounts for urn-burial, whereof the most notable I have seen, are those four call'd Krigeu Kemaes, or the barrows of Kemaes. One of these, a gentleman of the neighbourhood, out of curiosity, and for the satisfaction of some friends, caus'd lately to be dug; and discover'd therein five urns, which contain'd a considerable quantity of burnt bones and ashes. One of these urns, together with the bones and ashes it contain'd, was presented to the Ashmolean repository at Oxford, by the worshipful John Philips of Dol Haidh, Esq; I shall not pretend to determine what nation these barrows did belong to; tho' from the rudeness of the urns, as well in respect of matter as fashion, some might suspect them rather Barbarous than Roman. But we know not how unskilful some artists among the Romans might be, especially in these remote parts of the province, where probably not many of them, besides military persons, ever settled. Another urn was found not many years since, in a barrow in the parish of Melineu, and one very lately on a mountain not far from Kil Rhedyn.

But seeing the design of this work is not confin'd to antiquities and Civil History, but sometimes, for the reader's diversion, is extended also to such occurrences in nature, as seem more especially remarkable; I hope it may be excusable if I add here some few observations in that kind: And shall therefore communicate part of a letter from my ingenious friend, the Reverend Mr. Nicholas Roberts, A. M. rector of Lhan Dhewi Velfrey, which contains an account of some migratory sea birds that breed in the isle of Ramsey, with some other relations that seem remarkable.

Over-against Justinian's chapel, and separated from it by a narrow stream, is Ramsey-island, call'd formerly Ynis Devanog from a chapel there

there dedicated that Saint, now swallow'd up by the sea, which seems by the proverb to have been once part of the continent; if I may properly call our country so, when I speak of such small insulets. In it there is a small promontory or neck of land, issuing into the sea, which is call'd *Ynys yr hyrdhod*, whence I presume is the name of Ramsey. To this island, and some rocks adjoyning, call'd by the sea men *The bishop and his Clerks*, do yearly resort about the beginning of April such a number of birds of several sorts, that none but such as have been eye-witnesses can be prevail'd upon to believe it; all which, after breeding here, leave us before August. They come to these rocks, and also leave them, constantly in the night-time: For in the evening the rocks shall be cover'd with them, and the next morning not a bird to be seen; so in the evening not a bird shall appear, and the next morning the rocks shall be full. They also visit us commonly about Christmas, and stay a week or more, and then take their leave till breeding-time. Three sorts of these migratory birds are call'd in Welsh, *Mora*, *Poeth-wy*, and *Pal*; in English, *Eligug*, *Razorbil*, and *Puffin*; to which we may also add the *Harry-bird*; tho' I cannot at present assure you, whether this bird comes and goes off with the rest.

The *Eligug* lays but one egg, which (as well as those of the *Puffin* and *Razorbil*) is as big as a duck's, but longer, and smaller at one end. From this egg she never parts (unless forced) till she hatches it, nor then till the young one be able to follow her; being all the while fed by the male. This and the *Razorbil* breed upon the bare rocks, making no manner of nest; and sometimes in such a place, that being frighten'd thence, the egg or young one (which before was upheld by the breast, upon a narrow shelving rock) tumbles into the sea. The *Puffin* and *Harry-bird* breed in holes, either those of rabbits (wherewith Ramsey is abundantly furnish'd, all black) or such as they dig with their beaks. The *Harry-birds* are never seen on land, but when taken; and the manner of taking these and the *Puffins*, is commonly by planting nets before their berries, wherein they soon entangle themselves. These four sorts cannot raise themselves upon the wing, from the land; but, if at any distance from the cliffs, waddle (for they cannot be well said to go, their legs being too infirm for that use, and placed much more backward than a duck's, so that they seem to stand upright) to some precipice, and thence cast themselves off, and take wing; But from the water they will raise to
 any

any height. The Puffin lays three white eggs; the rest but one, speckled, &c.

He adds much more of the other birds that frequent these rocks; and also gives a short account of several things remarkable in this county; but being confin'd within narrow limits, I shall only select two of them. The first is of a narrow deep pond, or rather pit, near the sea-side, and some cliffs which by their noise presage storms, &c. whereof he gives the following relation.

Near Stack-Pool Bosher, otherwise Bosherston, upon the sea-side, is a pool or pit call'd Bosherston-mear; the depth whereof, several that have sounded, have not yet discover'd. This pit bubbles and foams, and makes such a noise before stormy weather, that it is heard above ten miles off. The banks are of no great circumference at the top, but broader downwards; and from the bottom, there is a great breach towards the sea, which is about a furlong distant. So that, considering the bubbling, and the extraordinary noise this pit makes against stormy weather, I am apt to suspect it may have a subterraneous communication with the sea-water. But there is much more talk'd of this place, than I shall trouble you with at present, because I take some relations of it for fabulous; and living remote from it myself, I have had no opportunities of being satisfy'd of the truth from others. Its noise is distinctly known from that of the sea; which also on these coasts often roars very loud. And the neighbouring inhabitants to the sea, can give a shrewd guess what weather will ensue by the noise it makes. For when it proceeds from such a creek or haven, they will expect this or that sort of weather will follow. And by these observations, I have been told the evening before, what weather we should have next day; which has happen'd very true; and that once, as by chance, but often.

The other is a sort of food, made in several parts of this county, of a sea-plant, which, by the description I hear of it, I take to be the oyster-green or *lettuca marina*. This custom I find obtains also in Glamorganshire (where it is call'd laver-bread) as also in several parts of Scotland and Ireland, and probably in some counties of England.

Near St. David's (says he) especially at Eglwys Abernon, and in other places, they gather, in the spring-time, a kind of Alga or seaweed, with which they make a sort of food call'd lhavan or lhawvan, in English, black butter. Having gather'd the weed, they wash

it clean from sand and slime, and sweat it between two tile stones ; then they fired it small, and knead it well as they do dough for bread, and make it up into great balls, or rolls, which some eat raw, and others fry'd with oatmeal and butter. It is accounted sovereign against all distempers of the liver and spleen : And the late Dr. Owen as- sur'd me, that he found relief from it in the acutest fits of the stone.

There have been divers earls of Penbroke descended from several families. As for Arnulph of Montgomery, who first conquer'd it, and was afterwards out-law'd ; and his Castellan Girald of Windsor, whom king Henry I. made afterward president over the whole coun- try ; I can scarce affirm, that they were earls. King Stephen first confer'd the title of earl of Penbroke upon Gilbert Strongbow son of Gislebert de Clare. He left it to his son Richard Strongbow, the conqueror of Ireland ; who was (as Giraldus has it) *e Clara Claren- sum familia oriundus*, descended from the famous family of the Clares. Isabella the only daughter of this earl, brought this title to her husband William Marshal, so call'd, for that his ancestors had been hereditary marshals of the king's palace, a very accomplish'd person, and well instructed in the arts of peace and war. Of whom we find this epitaph in Rudburn's Annals :

*Sum quem Saturnam sibi sensit Hibernia Solem
Anglia, Mercurium Norminnia, Gallia Martem.*

Me Mars the French, their sun the English own'd,
The Normans Mercury, Irish Saturn found.

After him, his five sons were successively earls of Pembroke, viz. Wil- liam, call'd the younger ; Richard, who having rebell'd against Henry III. fled into Ireland, where he dy'd in battle ; Gilbert, who at a tourna- ment at Ware was unhors'd, and so kill'd ; and Walter and Anselm. All these dying in a short space without issue ; king Henry III. in- vested with the honour of this earldom William de Valentia, of the family of Lusignia in Poitiers, who was his own brother by the mother's side, and marry'd Joan, the daughter of Gwarin de Mont Chenssey, by a daughter of William Marshal. To William de Valen- tia succeeded his son Audomar, who was governor of Scotland un- der king Edward I. His sister and coheir Elizabeth, being marry'd to John lord Hastings, brought this title into a new family. For Law-

rence

rence Hastings his grandchild by a son, who was lord of Aberga-venny, made earl of Penbroke by a rescript of king Edward III. a copy of which it may not be amiss to subjoyn here, that we may see what right there was, by heirs-female, in these honorary titles. *Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem.* Know ye, that the good presages of wisdom and virtue, which we have form'd from the towardly youth and happy beginnings of our well beloved cousin Lawrence Hastings, deservedly induce us to countenance him with our especial grace and favour, in those things which concern the due preservation and maintenance of his honour. Whereas therefore the inheritance of Aimar of Valence, sometime earl of Pembroke (deceas'd long since without heir begotten of his body) hath been devolv'd upon his sisters, to be proportionably divided among them and their heirs: And because we know for certain, that the foresaid Lawrence, who succeedeth the said Aimar in part of the inheritance, is descended from the eldest sister of Aimar aforesaid, and so, by the avouching of the learned, whom we consulted in this matter, the prerogative both of name and honour is due unto him: We deem it just and due, that the same Lawrence, claiming his title from the eldest sister, assume and have the name of earl of Penbroke, which the said Aimar had whilst he liv'd, Which, as much as lyeth in us, we confirm, ratify, and approve: Willing and granting, that the said Lawrence have and hold the prerogative and honour of earl-palatine, in those lands which he holdeth of the said Aimar's inheritance; as fully, and after the same manner, as the same Aimar had and held them, at the time of his death, &c. Witness the king at Montmartin, the 13th day of October, in the 13th year of his reign.

This Lawrence Hastings was succeeded by his son John, who being taken by the Spaniards in a sea-fight, and afterwards redeem'd, dy'd in France in the year 1375. To him succeeded his son John, who was kill'd in a tournament at Woodstock in the year 1391. And it was observ'd of this family, that by a certain particular fate no father ever saw his son, for five generations. He leaving no issue, several considerable revenues devolv'd to the crown: And the castle of Penbroke was granted to Francis At-court, a courtier of that time in great favour; who, upon this account, was commonly call'd lord of Penbroke. And not long after, John duke of Bedford, and after him his brother Humfrey duke of Gloucester, sons of king Henry IV. obtain'd the same title. After that, William de la Pole was made marquiss of Pembroke; upon whose decease king Henry the sixth created

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